

New Mission News

Comforting the Afflicted and Afflicting the Comfortable Since 1980

August 1995



Photo by Eugene Kettner

MANO A MANO RIGHTS GROUPS ORGANIZE TO COUNTER INS RAIDS

by Marta Miyar

The arrival of spring in May triggered something very unexpected in the Bay Area: an increase in the activities of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In San Mateo, Concord, Redwood City, St. Helena, and San Francisco, the INS raided. Apartments, workplaces, street vendors, and day laborers were raided. In San Francisco, the continued focus of INS's attention has been the day laborers gathered on street corners seeking employment.

With no walls, to protect them, no doors to shut in the face of an unwelcome guest, day laborers are the most vulnerable group to face the INS. In unmarked vans, agents approach laborers posing as contractors in need of workers. These ideal employers, who offer good wages and need a lot of people, later identify themselves as federal officers and detain anyone who is apparently without documents. The end result is the detention of more than 40 laborers at a time, and the creation of an atmosphere of fear, apprehension, and helplessness felt throughout the community.

In response, three community based groups have united to form an organized method of lending support to the day laborers in San Francisco's Mission District. The San Francisco Day Labor Program, the Immigrant Rights Action Pledge, and Movimiento pro Derechos de Inmigrantes (MDI, movement for immigrant rights), decided to stand as active witness in solidarity with the workers. "It is not our intention to see that the (INS) agents do their job legally and fairly, but rather to publicly display our opposition to detention and deportation of anyone from our communities," said Christina Galvez of the Immigrant Rights Action

Pledge.

On Monday, July 17, 1995, MANO A MANO: Solidarity Without Borders was launched. At 8:00 a.m. a group of 20 volunteers, armed with signs and banners in support of the day laborers, gathered on the corner of Folsom and Cesar Chavez Boulevard. Half of the group stayed on that corner, making a visible presence of solidarity, while the rest of the group proceeded to talk to all of the day laborers waiting for work along Cesar Chavez Blvd. between Folsom and Valencia streets. Information was presented, covering the most basic and important legal rights issues broken down into the following six points:

- Do not discuss your legal status with anyone.
- Do not tell anyone where you are from. If asked, simply reply "San Francisco" or "I don't want to answer the question."
- Do not run from the INS.
- Do not carry false documents.
- If detained by INS, do not say anything, do not sign anything.
- If detained by INS, use your right to make a telephone call to speak to an attorney.

These points are based on the fact that the INS cannot detain someone without "probable cause." They emphasize every individual's right to remain silent. A person's appearance or native language do not constitute probable cause. Along with the presentation, volunteers distribute the "Rights and Responsibilities" leaflet of the San Francisco Day Labor Program and the "Know Your Rights" card of the Immigrant Assistance Line. These materials offer details regarding

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HOMELESS HOTEL PLAN IS UNDER FIRE SLUMLORD BAILOUT CHARGED

by Victor Miller

The battle continues over a controversial plan to deduct \$280 from the \$345 monthly allotment to homeless General Assistance recipients and pay that money directly to private hotel operators. These GA recipients would then be compelled to either accept lodging in a hotel that is part of the City's Mandatory Rent Payment Program (MRPP) or lose all public assistance benefits. Proponents of the program say it will get people off the streets and reduce welfare fraud. The voters narrowly approved Proposition N in the November 1994 giving the Department of Social Services the option of implementing this program. So far efforts to get it going have been blocked by homeless advocates. Critics charge the MRPP is a return to the Hotline Hotel fiasco of the 1980's that enriched slumlord hotel owners but merely warehoused the homeless in appalling squalor.

This could be bad news for the Mission. Four hotels in the 16th Street area, the All Star, the Crown, the Mission and the 16th Street Hotel are all slated to be part of the MRPP. All four hotels are part of the inner city gulag run by the most notorious hotelier of the old Hotline Hotel days, Chhotubhai "Charlie" Patel.

Randy Shaw, Director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic after reviewing the list of hotels the Department of Social Services claims are providing rooms for the program concluded, "When you take away all the one's that have told us they aren't participating 70 to 80 percent of the program will be Charlie's hotels."

Currently, some residential hotels have vacancy rates as high as 30 percent

according to a Coalition on Homelessness survey. This is due to hazardous and filthy living conditions which make many homeless opt to live in the streets. It also indicates the windfall the program would be to cash strapped hotel owners. The mandatory payment program was, as a matter of fact, first advocated in 1993 by then Jordan administration Homeless Coordinator Eleanor Jacobs whose husband was the Executive Director of the Residential Hotel Owners Association.

Proponents of the MRPP, such as General Manager of the Department of Social Services Brian Cahill, argue that a \$750,000 contract for social services outreach with Catholic Charities and beefed-up code enforcement effort will rectify the previous mistakes. Certainly, neither the Mission nor any other neighborhood needs a massive, out of control city program. Estimates say 500 - 700 people will be housed through MRPP.

But based on the city's history in dealing with both code enforcement and the homeless, assurances that the MRPP will not be a disaster are open to question. And there are some serious reservations by housing and social service non-profits expressed most impressively by the fact only two agencies besides Catholic Charities, Episcopal Sanctuaries and Conard House chose to bid on the MRPP's \$750,000 contract. For two years nearly every housing and homeless group has denounced the mandatory payment including a hotel advisory panel set up by former homeless coordinator Jacobs.

Last month Supervisor Terence Hallinan, convinced the full Board to put the funds for the contract with Catholic Charities on reserve until the Department

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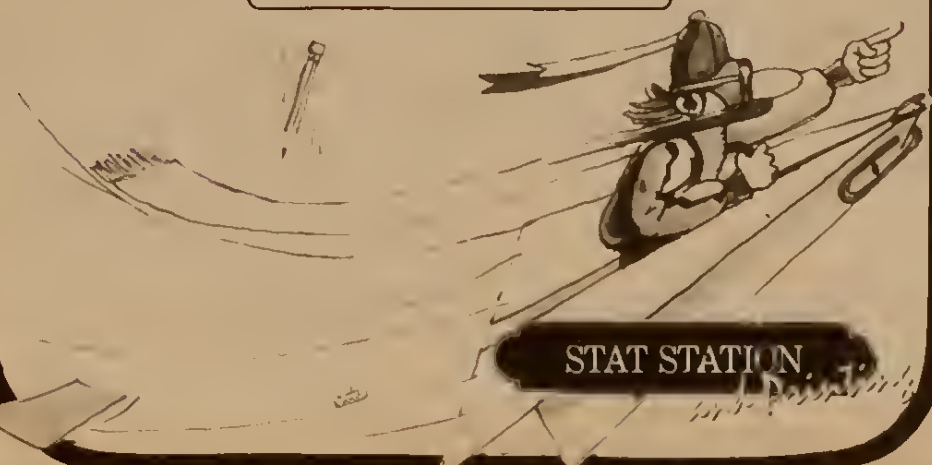
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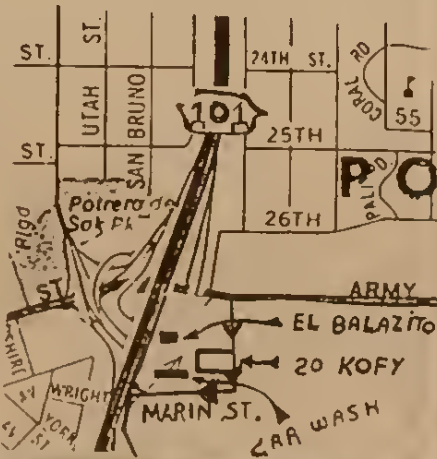
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the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

As a young, militant hospital worker, I thought managers were interchangeable idiots, doing little of value and getting paid a lot of money. I knew I could run things better than they, but I was too good to want to. Now I realize that a really good manager is worth her weight in autographed Bahe Ruth rookie cards, and just about as rare. Good leaders make neighborhoods, businesses, and every other group enterprise work. Unfortunately, they're greatly outnumbered by the greedy, disorganized or turned-out among the management class.

One area starved for quality leadership is the public school system. A strong, caring, hard-working principal, with vision and energy, given adequate authority, will create a school where nearly every student learns. One such school is Bryant Elementary on York Street, where Principal Dahyana Otero and a group of inspired young teachers have done more than educate. They have turned the school into a community center. Bryant has programs almost every weekday afternoon and evening: recreation, boys' and girls' clubs, computer and drama programs. Otero worked with neighborhood groups, nonprofits, parents, businesses and government agencies to bring in new resources and opportunities for her students, as well as using school facilities to help with block clubs and safety programs.

Otero's office on a school day is like

the newsroom of a major metropolitan daily, only sweeter. A steady stream of kids come to show their work. She praises them, starting in English and switching to Spanish when students indicate their preference, even giving them new Spanish vocabulary. In between, she's on the phone to possible funders, school district offices, and anyone else that she thinks can help. Her datebook is broken into ten-minute increments, and most of the lines are filled. Her computer screen is always lit up, usually displaying some report or grant request.

The attractive, 39-year-old native of Colombian is known for calling in messages to herself and office staff in the middle of the night when she thinks of something that could help the school. Possibly her single-mindedness stems from her educationally-deprived childhood. "My family was too poor to send me to school," she remembers. "I didn't go until age 10, when we got to Boston."

The Bryant community, though, got a big shock in June when Superintendent Bill Rojas suddenly transferred Otero to Edison School on Guerrero at 23rd Street. Bryant parents and teachers do not know who will replace Otero, and whether or not some programs would continue is unclear.

One school's loss is another's gain, though. Otero has big plans for Edison, one of the City's most troubled elementary schools. In her first three weeks on the job, she met with parents in the Mission and in Bayview, home of 38 percent of Edison's students. Parents are wary; Edison has gone through two other reor-



Principal Dahyana Otero Photo by Eugene Kettner

ganizations without noticeable improvement. Last year they had eight "resource teachers," who rarely taught classes. Otero got rid of five or six and replaced them with young, energetic classroom teachers, reducing class size to 20. She worked out a deal with the nonprofit Education Partners to provide computers and technology training. She brought in Instituto Familiar de la Raza to create a conflict resolution program. But she'll need help; I urge all concerned Edison neighbors to involve themselves with the school's renaissance.

operating the schoolyard on a volunteer basis by night, then calling, writing and otherwise pressuring the Mayor's Office, Recreation and Parks and the School District by day. The two young Recreation directors will be aided by two youth workers funded by the Private Industry Council through the employment contractors Horizons Unlimited. With volunteers, we've been drawing 20-30 kids each evening. With an organized program, including field trips and prizes, we should keep even more people off the street.

Two Rec directors can't handle 40 kids, though. We'll still need volunteers, but Rec/Park officials don't seem to want them. Perhaps they haven't yet learned that a cooperation between government and community groups works best for everyone concerned. We'll see how it works out, but right now, I'm just really happy to get some help, even if it is for only six weeks.

BACK AT BRYANT

The official Bryant Schoolyard summer recreation program began July 24, after 14 weeks of work by Roberto Garcia, Cliff Cox, Tony Diaz, Kim Mukoyama, myself and many others. Roberto and I have been running ourselves ragged,

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THINK TANK HEAD SHOTS FELL UNION PICKET

SMALL SETTLEMENT FOR APPARENT HATE CRIME

by Adrienne Y. Brazelton

On July 11, one man's hopes of winning the silver lining of his personal cloud of misfortune blew away with the wind. That Tuesday, Pablo Loaiza, a Mission District janitor who was injured while walking a picket line, agreed to settle his lawsuit against the city's most well known right wing think tank for a paltry sum, without further fuss.

If his injury case had been prosecuted as a hate crime, Loaiza could have won more than \$150,000 in costs and punitive damages. Instead, he settled for about \$17,000. To understand why Loaiza settled as he did requires knowing not only the facts, but a little bit of politics and the law.

The whole mess began when Loaiza was rained on not by harmless water but by a full grape soda can flung from a fourth-floor window of a building Loaiza and his Union Local 87 brothers were picketing. As the blood poured from a gash in his head, two of the three police officers at the scene went into the building at 243 Kearny Street to find a suspect. Instead, they found six.

Officer Jeff Barry wrote in a police report dated Dec. 7, 1992, "All the men identified are employees at 243 Kearny. There were reportedly no visitors in the building. The room that the suspect was seen in is an individual's office but seems open to all employees. 243 Kearny has an employee kitchen where we found a recycling box which contained a variety of bottles and cans. Officer Shockley and I couldn't positively identify any of the suspects."

Someone had thrown the two full grape soda cans and the weighty bottle of oil that hit Loaiza, but no one claimed to know the culprits identity. After Loaiza was hit, Officers Shockley and Barry looked up at the building; they saw the

suspect slam the top northern window and retreat from their vision. The officers could say only that the man was wearing business clothes, a light brown sweater and a light colored shirt. Entering the building, they found six men fitting that description.

All were employees of the Institute for Contemporary Studies, a leading national conservative thinktank that once employed current US Supreme Court Judge Clarence Thomas. ICS has published more than 70 books since its foundation in 1972. The Institute promotes a free-market ideology in the Third World and, apparently, in San Francisco. All six suspects had crossed the picket line to get to work that Monday.

The six suspects were Kevin J. Heverin, A. Lawrence Chickering, Sam T. Harper, Peter S. Hayes, John Ornelas and Arthur Nelson. One of them, Chickering, is a former director and current board member of ICS who now writes for the San Francisco Chronicle. Not one of the six suspects was arrested the day Loaiza's head was split like a ripe grape.

Dr. Ernest Bates, a neurological surgeon, examined Loaiza and wrote his findings in a Jan. 12, 1993, letter to one of Loaiza's attorneys. Loaiza had told Dr. Bates (through a translator) that one of the soda cans struck him on the top of the head, another hit him on the left side of the face and the third container bashed him on the left shoulder.

Loaiza was taken in an ambulance to San Francisco General Hospital, where emergency room staff sutured the scalp wound. Since the accident, Loaiza suffered from shakes, dizziness, the sensation of beat in his face, tenderness of the left shoulder and pain in his scalp. "He now exhibits the signs and symptoms of a post-concussion syndrome," wrote Dr. Bates.

"A subsequent CT scan (commonly referred to as a Catscan) found a lesion in

Loaiza, requiring yet another test. That scan came back negative," said William Gordon, who became Loaiza's final attorney after a succession of lawyers dropped the case.

By the time he got the case, Gordon said, it was an issue of *res ipsa loquitur*. "To prove who did it, the personal injury lawyer explained, you have to show that the instrumentality that caused the accident was in the sole and exclusive control of the defendant. And we got everything except the soda pop. There was some stuff in the kitchen but no one could say with great certitude what was there. It was highly in dispute."

If the case had been pursued and won as a hate crime under the Ralph and Bane Civil Rights Acts, the minimum award from each convicted defendant would have been \$25,000, with attorney fees paid on top, according to Stephen Pantos, who was Loaiza's attorney for about 11 months before Gordon took it over.

However, no one outside the building, including the other union members with whom Gordon spoke, claimed to have heard any shouts or slurs from the buildings tenants. Pantos said, "This should have gone by the hate crimes unit of Arlo [Arlo Smith, the city's district attorney], but Arlo did nothing with this. And this

was a hate crime, a classic hate crime."

Gordon dismissed the hate crime angle, saying, "There's no smoking gun; there's no evidence. If there was one guy in there who said that he hated Mexicans or that he was in favor of [Proposition] 187, you know? But, there was nothing. There was not even anybody who admitted knowing about the thing inside the building."

So, on July 11, Gordon and the ICS defendants lawyer, Nancy Sullivan Walter, hashed out a settlement with the help of an arbitrator. Both sides agreed with the arbitrators \$17,000 award. When the New Mission News spoke with Walter, she sounded pleased about the cases conclusion.

Gordon was disappointed. But I'm a lawyer, he said, and I'm a very practical guy, and this guy needed to have this thing resolved more than anything. It wasn't going anywhere; everything was being eaten up in costs. "I mean, there were about \$4,000 spent on this case in costs. And we couldn't prove any serious wage loss or any serious medical condition."

Loaiza couldn't be reached for comment, but Gordon summed up his own view of the settlement by saying, "I think that the guy got screwed."

MISSION TRAGEDY



The casket containing the body of Louis Ramos age 15, is carried from Mission Dolores. On July 26 Ramos, a victim of gang violence, was killed by gunfire at

the corner of 19th and Mission.

A Mission Dolores priest told mourners, "He who bates his brother is an assassin."

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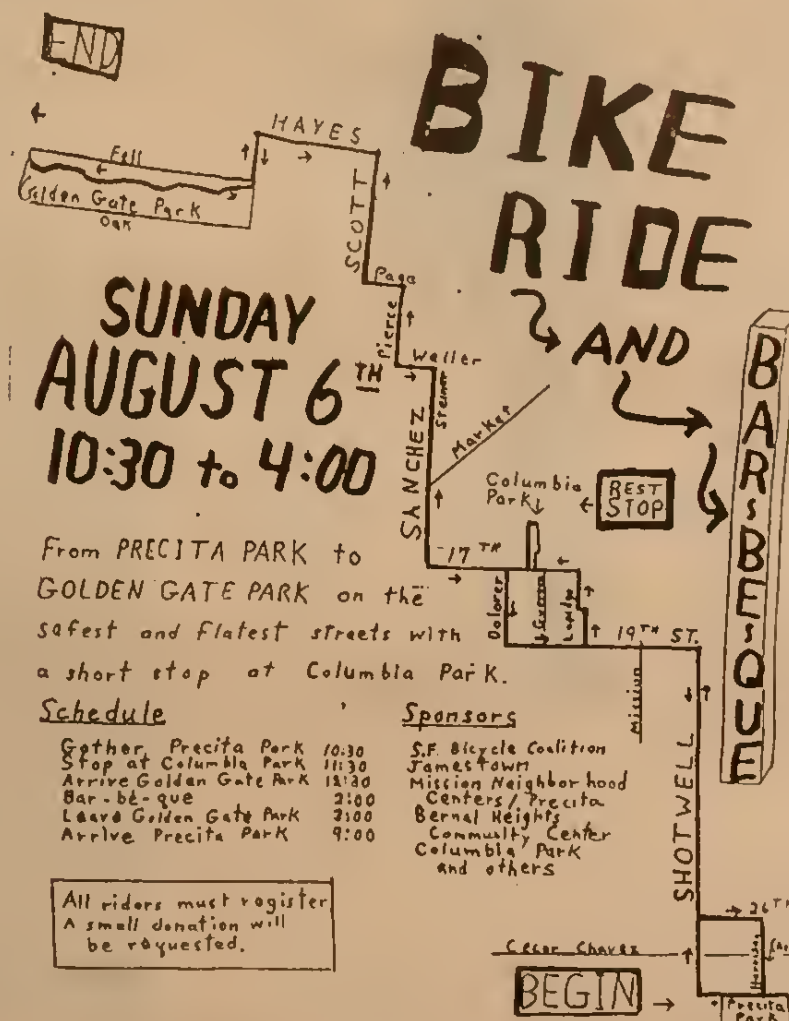
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HOMLESS HOTELS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

of Social Services could demonstrate that 700 habitable rooms were actually available. Steve Williams of the Coalition on Homeless was convinced DSS could never do it. "That's it they're finished," he said. But instead Cahill sidestepped the Board by getting a City Attorney's opinion that the Supervisors had acted in violation of the City Charter. "The supervisors don't approve contracts like that," Cahill told the News, "it's interfering with a city department."

"Well, I think I know a little bit more about the City Charter than he does," Halinan fired back. "We are trying to maintain oversight, we have the right to see that things are done properly."

Williams said the DSS try at avoiding scrutiny, is typical of the way the mandatory payment plan has evolved. "First they tried to do it administratively. Then, when they found out they had to go to the Supervisors -- but didn't have the votes --

once a month by the health department." Asked how inspectors would find the time for the additional work Buick said he didn't know but "we have a Memo of Understanding with them that says they will [perform the inspections]."

It was also in 1983 after repeated exposes about living conditions in his buildings and a criminal investigation into overcharging the Hotline Program that Charlie Patel threatened the mass eviction of nearly the 1500 people the city's homeless program had housed through him. Mayor Diane Feinstein who at the time was eyeing the Democratic Vice Presidential nomination just six months down the pike, appeared on TV with Patel in what has been the low point of her career, at least so far, and gave Patel her a clean bill of health. Patel backed off the evictions and the city backed off Patel. Patel and four other Hotline owners had to pay back a portion of the nearly half of



The All Star Hotel part of the Patel Gulag. Photo by Eugene Kettner

they put it on the ballot. Now this."

The MRPP's increased code enforcement claim, touted as a safeguard against subsidizing slumlords is a bit dubious. In 1983, a scandal erupted when it was found that the Hotline Hotels were not providing heat. Consequently a city ordinance was passed requiring minimum heating of rooms, with stiff penalties for violations.

In a series of stories which ran in this newspaper in June and July of 1995, it was revealed that not only the Star Hotel at 18th and Mission failed to provide heat for over a year but that in 12 years no one in the entire city had been prosecuted for heat law infractions. Citations were issued but were evidently filed and forgotten. Despite a new Building Inspection Commission to oversee inspection efforts, code enforcement is not one of San Francisco's strong suits. Nevertheless, Jim Buick, Director of Homeless Programs for DSS said, "Residential hotels are ordinarily inspected once every three years; our hotels in the program will be inspected every three months by the Department of Building Inspection and

a million dollars they'd overcharged.

Buick says Patel will not be able to do this again since tenants in the MRPP program will reside in the hotels for more than 30 days and enjoy full tenant rights. Nonetheless, Patel has proven himself a hardball player and has historically kicked bureaucrat butt.

The Tenderloin Housing Clinic runs a voluntary, direct-payment program for 1200 people. They used Patel's All Star Hotel at 16th and Folsom but stopped doing so when Patel refused to allow a tenant ombudsman on the premises. Whether the 12 person social services contingent of Catholic Charities is any more successful remains to be seen. In the past, almost every public official involved in the homelessness problem has mouthed the platitude that the root causes of homelessness must be identified and dealt with. Indiscriminately scattering the homeless in hotel rooms throughout the city is likely to make any systematic solution to their problems all the more difficult.

16TH STREET RENDEZ-VOUS

SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH
2pm to 2am

Celebrating the multicultural vitality of our neighborhood, the merchants and residents of 16th Street are coming together for the 16th Street Block Party. Without closing the street, on the sidewalks and inside our 16th Street businesses, we will feature happenings on August 12, between 2 pm and 2 am. The outdoors event will happen between 2 and 10 pm.

Start at Valencia, La Hacienda, surrounded by its fresh fruit stands, will serve agua fresca, chips, and salsa. Ti Couz Restaurant will be hosting the band Sealingus and Tam Tam dancers. Mr. Goodginger will have tastings of ginger juice throughout the afternoon. Abbon-dante Restaurant will have dinner specials. Copycat will display a gallery of Xerox art. Four Walls Gallery will open its doors for view art with live music performances.

Kilowatt will host several bands through the day, Soul Kitchen, Don't Tell Mom, CH Lovers, and MK Ultra between 2 and 5 pm; after 8 pm for a \$6 cover charge, Overwhelming Colorfast, Crain, and Genbaku Onanics (Japan). 16th

Note Records will host the bands Bo Grampus and 50 Millions. Adobe Books will hold an outdoor book sale and a reading between 4 and 5 pm. Mission Grounds will have live music, including the jazz group Thread. New Dawn Cafe will have food specials. Pastaio will have a block party food special and samples of their menu. Dr. Bombay's will have a food spread and live music.

Down the south side of 16th, Eyedare will have a juggling act. Malai Thai Restaurant will have food tasting and Thai dancers. Rayon Vert will have new flower displays and serve fresh lemonade. B & K Cleaners will have a garage sale. Katz Bagels will be food sampling.

The corner of Albion Street will have performances by Lunacy, Bearded Lady Cafe, and Build Gallery/Performance Space. Dalva will host three DJs playing world music between 5 and 9 pm, with their regular music kicking in after 9 pm. Grande Ho Hibachi will have food specials. Roxie Theater features "a short film about killing" and will sell popcorn to go. Truly Mediterranean will hold a raffle (win a color TV) and have belly dancer performance.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

My name is Jesse, I'm 10 years old. I have worked over a year to get a street named after Cesar Chavez. I spoke at the Board of Supervisors meeting. I was chosen to unveil the street sign at the March 31st celebration. It was one of my proudest moments. I'd like everybody to know why having Chavez Street is important to children. There's a big controversy on the changing of the street. I don't know why?? Cesar Chavez was a civil rights leader, a pacifist. He believed in justice and change. He believed that we could change our own lives, without violence. There are so many things that Chavez did that couldn't be mentioned in just one letter. Not only was he able to get higher pay, better working conditions, health and pension benefits for farm workers. But he helped to get pesticides like DDT removed from our fruits and vegetables. And that helps everyone. I think all children should know of Chavez and other civil rights leaders. The street signs have been changed and at no cost to the taxpayers. But if the street signs are changed back to Army Street, the cost will not only be to the taxpayers, but also to the children. The future is suppose to be ours, you've lived your lives. Please help us to grow up in a positive non-prejudice atmosphere. Please help us fight for Cesar Chavez Street...for the children.

Thank You,
Jesse Arreguin
St. Philips School

Editor:

Your diatribe against us was most interesting, but out of place on almost every count. In terms of our Mission coverage, we don't pretend to be a Mission paper or compete with your generally excellent coverage, we have other imperatives in news and editorial thrust, such as our city-wide issue coverage of major stories, usually with a strong progressive neighborhood, small business orientation.

I'm enclosing our most recent issue, on our economic analysis of how the "rich are getting richer," [an] analysis we've been doing and updating regularly since 1971, and an analysis, I assure you, that neighborhoods, renters, and "little people" and minorities et al appreciate and that the JoBS/Mosher/Solem/PG&E/Chamber block do not. Which is why they work so hard to get you to go along with their soak-the-neighborhoods, up-big-business policies.

I think our neighborhood/small business/papers are pretty good. From our progressive stands through the years, to our sunshine work, to our leading the fight to get free papers off the hook for a sales tax to the free paper fights.

I guess the main question is still, why do you seem to go along with the Mark Mosher and the JoBs and downtown folks. When have you really critically covered them, or their anti-neighborhood policies, or what they're up to?

What they are up to [is] pretty well outlined in the enclosed material.

Don't you think.

The Bay Guardian, for all your ranting, is not the enemy. The enemy is a little further downtown.

All the best, from the Hampshire front,

Bruce B. Brugman

Victor Miller Editor-in-Chief responds:

In the past year the Bay Guardian has tried to bolster its declining political clout by conducting a smear campaign against the 11 neighborhood newspapers, including the New Mission News, who make up the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association. We are, in the Guardian view, hapless pawns of big business -- a laughable assertion that never-

theless comes in handy. Whenever the Guardian is unable to respond substantially to valid criticism, the tactic is to ignore the issues raised and imply those raising them are merely doing so as a result of a conspiratorial relationship with the evil empire of downtown intertests. The mindset that cannot recognize a dissenting opinion as arising from any other source than an cabal of sinister forces is not progressive; it is paranoid.

The point I made in our June issue was that the Guardian, though based in the Mission, has taken precious little interest in the issues which shape this community. Those familiar with the attitudes of community unfriendly institutional or business concerns located in poorer neighborhoods will recognize the philosophy as yet another version of the trickle down theory of social change. Just let us continue doing exactly as we please and eventually all your petty concerns will go away, so goes the argument, first articulated by that great progressive Herbert Hoover. In the meantime all the "little people" can occupy themselves by joining the Guardians cheering section.

I remain unconvinced that you have met your obligations to the Mission and I believe it is because that quirky template you so rigidly apply to reality doesn't fit here. The process of rethinking some long cherished ideas is always an option, but likely to be a wee bit painful for someone who believes himself to be in sole possession of the absolute truth.

Perhaps it's time to stop soaking up the sunshine, the cheap rent, and the third world cachet; toss the old carpet bag in back of the Volvo and move the whole operation to Bolinas.

Your pal,
Victor Miller

Dear Editor:

I am a gardener at the community garden at Alioto Park and I am writing to let the people of the Mission District and SF know that, though you couldn't tell by reading Andy Solow's July "Fiasco Park" article, there are a lot of things going on right at our Mission park and garden at Capp and 20th. Most fundamentally, the park has been transformed from a site known for illicit activities, to a place where families and people -- young and old -- come to play and relax. The community garden and common green areas of the park, though not perfectly maintained, are being kept up reasonably well by a diverse group of community members. Different events, such as the Opening Ceremony of May 14, a Father's Day celebration, and several workshops, have been great successes by all accounts (although no word of them has appeared in the New Mission News). Finally, in addition to these successes, the activities in the park are being planned out by gardeners and the new park-coordinator, Lisa Moore.

Despite these positive steps, there are problems that we cannot ignore. The fact that the park's play equipment is not finished is indeed a great shame and an embarrassment for those responsible, as Andy Solow's July article shows. The fence dividing the park is ugly and creates a situation much more dangerous than the seemingly finished play structure it fails to keep kids off. You and I and all of us in the Mission can and should put pressure on so that our park gets completed ASAP.

We must address these problems, but to dwell on them is to overshadow the hours of effort community members have put into Alioto Park and the potential for further community involvement. Problems present or not, the most valuable thing community members can do is to get involved. Leave a message for Lisa Moore at 243-8215 to get a calendar of park events or to put on an event in the park. Call the Rec and Park at 666-7200; thank them for supporting community participation in local projects but also ask when the play equipment will be finished. And even if you do nothing else -- go to

the park! It is a beautiful place to play or relax or have a picnic. Lots of people use the park now, but let's all get out and enjoy it so its success is so very obvious that no well-intentioned, but myopic, reporter can ever again call Alioto Park a failure.

Chris Auremma

Editor's note: Work on Alioto Mini-Park was completed late last month,

Editor,

We regret to learn that Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) employees Nicholas Levinson and Daniel Hernandez have received hate mail including threats of violence. We condemn the perpetrators who are obviously very sick and hope that the police catch them before they hurt someone.

However, the receipt of hate mail does not justify Ms. Snyderman's insinuation (New Mission News July 1995) that the residents of the 1010 South Van Ness area who are opposing MHDC's project are responsible for fomenting the hate mail.

The opponents of MHDC's 1010 South Van Ness low income housing project are ALL Mission residents and property owners including: straight, gay, White, Hispanic, Black, & Chinese, Catholics, Protestants and Jews. Absent evidence of any kind, it is hard to believe that a group of people this diverse would generate anti-semitic, homophobic hate mail.

More than 130 residents and property owners from the area immediately adjacent to 1010 South Van Ness signed petitions indicating that they were opposed to the project because of its extremely high density; but, would support the project if the density were drastically reduced. As presently envisioned 1010 South Van Ness has an allowable occupancy of 192 persons. To date our requests have been totally ignored.

Snyderman's article fails to mention that MHDC has filed with the SF Department of City Planning a document indicating that they will need no less than six variances from the SF Planning Code in order to build the 1010 South Van Ness Project. One of these variances is for dwelling unit density, disproving MHDC's persistent claims that the density they propose is permitted.

Snyderman's article also fails to mention that more than \$6.4 million will be spent to construct 30 units of "affordable" housing. This works out to \$212,000 + per unit for "affordable" housing versus no more than \$150,000 per unit for equivalent market rate housing. (\$1.8 million more than a market rate development.)

How might \$6.4 million dollars be better spent to the benefit of all? A few suggestions:

1. Just \$3 million dollars in a revolving fund could give 150 families a \$20,000 down-payment on their own home. This would give these folks a "leg up" on becoming homeowners and tax payers, able to take pride in a place of their own. As the loans were repaid, more families could use the same money.
2. Another \$3 million dollars could give another 150 families a similar loan to improve property they already have. Or,
3. \$3 million dollars could rehabilitate at least 60 housing units; or,

4. \$3 million dollars could "seed" a large number of "sweat equity projects that would improve living standards, train youngsters, and instill a sense of "community" that the Mission often lacks.

We have repeatedly urged MHDC to consider other ways to address the affordable housing shortage. There are numerous successful models for them to follow; but, the lure of continued employment and handsome profits are like heroin to drug addicts. So, in a desperate attempt to legitimize their greed, MHDC's employees falsely and maliciously accuse the opponents of their most recent high density housing project of sending them hate mail.

Jim Tyler Mayumi Paul
Jim Durfee George V. Rodriguez
John Belmeur Michael Carlyle
Franklin Lim Walter Ware
Marti A. Neely Daniel B. Paul
Andy Solow

Editor's Note: The antisemitic and racist correspondence recieved by MHDC, containing threats of violence and arson, was typed on the back of a flyer opposing the 1010 South Van Ness development.

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my outrage at Mayor Jordan's announcement of sending his proposed youth curfew to the ballot on the morning following the tragic death of a teenager to the Mission District due to gang violence. The timing of these two events hardly appears coincidental. Mayor Jordan's opportunism and political calculations are an insult, particularly in the Mission District which faces the brunt of much social and economic injustice and in which the consequence of the curfew law will be most hurtful. Instead of proposing real solutions to the complex issues and problems facing our community, Mayor Jordan takes advantage of our problems to advance his political career. His short-sighted, ineffective, expensive measure will only divide communities and play into the reactionary politics of building more jails and detention centers as a response to society's problems.

There is no doubt there is a serious problem of violence facing our community. The answer, however, is to find comprehensive solutions to these problems rather than adopt a new curfew law. We need to involve kids in well funded programs, and expand positive opportunities for teenagers and young adults. A new curfew which will be enforced primarily against low income and communities of color will only work to avoid real solutions and deepen the mistrust young people have of the police.

Mayor Jordan's chest-thumping, "tough on crime," punitive measures fail to improve the quality of life in the City. In addition, politician like Governor Wilson and Mayor Jordan continually scapegoat the Latino community and communities of color in order to play to the fears of more conservative voters and advance their own political careers. Obviously Mayor Jordan cares more about gathering votes than about the welfare of young people.

Eric Quezada
iPODER!

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MANO A MANO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

immigrant and laborer rights and provide telephone numbers for information or legal assistance.

That first day of MANO A MANO (which means "Hand in Hand"), the day laborers received the volunteers with great enthusiasm. Many held up the signs that volunteers had brought, others made their own signs and waved them to passers

rights before INS (for documented and undocumented people alike) and the dynamics of day laborers in order to offer support without inhibiting the search for work. Additionally, volunteers were advised of their rights as legal observers and the risks of intervention with federal agents beyond observation. "Volunteers are not encouraged to do anything more than observe the INS; nor are we discouraged from interacting. If and when that situation arises, each of us must



Mano a Mano activists on Chavez Blvd. Photo by Eugene Kettner

by who honked or waved back in solidarity. Since then, MANO A MANO has continued to make a presence twice a week on Cesar Chavez Blvd. According to German Martinez, of the San Francisco Day Labor Program, the "presence is making an impact. Many of the day laborers have said that they think INS isn't around as much, others have said that INS has been less successful. One vanload of day laborers, for example, was released immediately because all were documented. The most important impact, is that the day laborers who have been with us, now know the information and tell it to those who don't."

Before launching MANO A MANO, volunteers from all three organizations attended an orientation covering individual

decide for ourselves. It's an emotional issue, but we should make informed decisions," said Martinez.

The response from the community, advocacy groups, and immigrant rights organizations has been great. MANO A MANO recently held a second volunteer orientation to train representatives from interested organizations to provide the orientation to their constituencies. The goal is to continue expanding the volunteer base in order to increase the days of the outreach. "

Anyone can join the efforts of MANO A MANO, Solidarity Without Borders. For information please call Marta Miyar or German Martinez at the offices of the San Francisco Day Labor Program, (415) 252-5375.

A CALL TO ARMS

Marcos Gutierrez Comments
A Latina/Chicano perspective.

Recently I have been talking with my soul about how to live the rest of my life. My buddy says I am too old to start figuring out what I will be when I grow up. But, as far as I am concerned life is still in its infancy today, because from now on, it will be the rest of my life. But seriously I traveled through the hills of California last weekend and admired the rows and rows of farmland which usefully adorn our state and I thought about Cesar Chavez.

Mr. Chavez knew exactly what he was doing when he challenged the status quo of the California Agricultural/Governmental complex, the most potent conglomerate of concentrated power in the state of California. He was well aware that the land is owned by mostly white folks who exploit mostly Mexicans, with the protection, cooperation and financial support of the state of California. Needless to say, at my expense because I, like most of you, pay taxes.

As I traveled through the back roads of California I saw the Brown brothers doing stoop labor, the deadly low-flying pesticide planes getting rid of the bugs and an occasional Meicano. Cesar Chavez, aided by the faithful, organized the workers into a union. He walked the length of the state pleading, "hermanos, we are being exploited," stop the harvest of shame. He talked to president Jack Kennedy, looked him in the eye and said, "we are humans, and when you exploit us, in the eyes of the lord, you are exploiting yourself."

Mr. Chavez knew about the sweet deals that the agri-business in California has with the state, enough of a sweet deal to cause the state to consider, right now, bringing back the curse-fated Bracero program. Yes, the very same one that caused "AMERICA" to cry in shame in the past; the one that brings workers from other countries to work under rotten conditions. Then, when the work is done, sends them back home, like cheap pros-

titutes, a few bucks in their pockets, no benefits to cure their broken backs, clogged lungs or squashed spirits. If the Bracero program is embraced by the State of California, we will go back twenty years in time and allow the life and death of Cesar Chavez to go unnoticed.

The question is, what can we, us, the defected, the helpless, the impotent, the miserable, the jodidos, the disenfranchised do about it? Why should we, that are struggling to keep bread on our table for our children, give a flying fling about this? Why should we, who have assimilated and been accepted by the mainstream society and already live happily ever-after, look back and try to do something about it? Even if we decide to do something, what could it be?

The answer to the first question is simple: we need to do something about it because Latinas/Chicanos in this land, whether we like it or not, are in a cultural war that is becoming more blatant by the minute. We have been whipped by Proposition 187 and will be smashed soon by the anti-Affirmative Action movement, unless, we get off our butts and answer the salvo which has been sent our way. Si Se Puede! We must unite, register and vote and get the clowns that are running the government, out. In their place we must elect people who favor our agenda. We must realize that the media plays an important role in the extreme Right-wing movement which is blossoming now, even as we read.

The first step is to become a citizen, and register to vote Politically, and peacefully, while we have the chance, we must mobilize and organize before we are trapped like cats against the wall and have to defend ourselves violently. If the hardest working people in California, the farm workers, can organize, so can we. We must fight the political battle now, so our children don't have to fight the street battle in the future.

Marcos Gutierrez is a broadcast journalist, currently working toward a doctorate in that field at the University of San Francisco.



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IDENTITY CRISIS

LOCAL ARTIST WILL TESTIFY IN BEIJING ABOUT FOUR YEAR ORDEAL

by Patti Jo King

Daphne Scholinski, a local mixed media artist, is one the 21 women from around the world who has been chosen to testify at an international women's conference in Beijing in September. Scholinski's testimony will center on four traumatic years when she was involuntarily confined to mental institutions, under the dubious diagnosis of "Gender Identity Disorder," or G.I.D.

The mental health profession has used G.I.D. as a tool to institutionalize lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in a vainglorious attempt to "straighten" them out. Since the American Psychiatric Association voted to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973, Shannon Minter, attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, points out "G.I.D. provided a new conceptual framework for pathologizing homosexuality." Psychiatric intervention has moved from "curing" homosexuality to "preventing" it in adolescents. Minter will also testify at the conference, which will focus on human rights violations against women.

At 14, Scholinski, a lesbian, was committed to a mental hospital on her therapist's advice. Her parents, concerned about her masculine behavior were told that "girls with her condition often spend the rest of their lives in mental hospitals."

Her "condition" consisted of tomboyish behavior, a penchant for sports, and being mistaken for a boy. Prescribed remedies included "curling and styling her hair," "experimenting with makeup," and "wearing dresses."

During her hospitalization, she was also subjected to sexual, physical, and emotional abuse from staff members, as well as fellow patients. She was routinely



Daphne Scholinski Photo by Eugene Kettner

medicated with a variety of drugs including heavy doses of Thorazine. "Much of my treatment consisted of pressure to conform to the norms of heterosexuality and femininity," Scholinski said. "When you are behind those closed doors, nobody knows what's really going on. You become a prisoner of that system."

Minter says that "G.I.D. is a direct attack on young women who see themselves as strong and capable and who identify and/or compete with boys and young men." G.I.D. is also used against young men "with nurturing and caretaking" identities. The underlying question to boys: Why would you ever want to act like a girl; to the girls: How dare you try to act like a boy. "This shows that a diagnosis of

G.I.D. is purely based on the hatred of women."

1990 statistics show that 75 percent of all juvenile psychiatric admissions are clinically unjustified. A 1992 congressional hearing on adolescent psychiatry revealed an alarming number of fraudulent diagnosis and commitments. Many of the abuses were motivated by profit. Bolstered by private medical insurance, Scholinski was confined in three different institutions over a four year period. She was finally released five days after her 18th birthday. Her insurance ran out when she turned 18.

Reports from young people and mental healthcare workers describe a variety of devastating treatments to which les-

bian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth in residential programs have been subjected. These include homophobic counseling, religious indoctrination, isolation, unwarranted medicating and hormone therapy, and severe behavior modification techniques designed to pressure them to conform to heterosexual orientation. For many, this treatment has been permanently damaging. Scholinski says that sometimes trying to convince her peers of these abusive practices is the hardest job. "All of this conjures up their worst fears," she says. "Most of us grew up fearing that because we are different, we would be labeled 'crazy.'"

To express the horrors she has experienced, Scholinski uses her talents as a mixed media artist. She began painting during her confinement. After her release, she earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts. A prolific painter, she has over 3,500 works to her credit. Her images are riveting, albeit extremely disturbing. She refers to each piece as a self-portrait. Whether or not the work is "about her," Scholinski says, it reflects some aspect of her inner pain, pain that will take a lifetime to confront.

"I went through horrors more unbelievable than anything [else] I had ever experienced...I was shattered. No longer one piece, but one thousand painful pieces, separated for inspection. My treatment was designed to leave only two options: change or not exist. I have chosen to exist," Scholinski says.

Scholinski hopes that her testimony at the 4th United Nations World Conference will help to "create some motivation to remove Gender Identity Disorder as an acceptable and legitimate diagnosis and means of institutionalizing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth in the future."

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TB: POOR PEOPLE'S PLAGUE IS ALWAYS WITH US

AIDS, HOMELESSNESS COMPLICATE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS

by Karin Maria Dydell

A young Asian woman lies in a San Francisco General Hospital bed close to death, fulminant tuberculosis killing her. She contracted her disease in her native country before legally immigrating to the US. Health officials warn that tuberculosis will be difficult to control as Proposition 187 goes into effect. This woman did not seek early treatment because she feared deportation from the US -- a clear threat Prop. 187 levels.

tor of TB Control in the Department of Public Health, there are "151-200 active cases of TB per 100,000 people in parts of the Mission District, particularly around the 16th and Mission area where there is a lot of drug use."

The San Francisco General Hospital TB Clinic served 5,000 patients last year, most for prevention treatment or screening. On average, about three percent of TB cases are detected for the first time at death and a small percentage of patients die of TB even after initiation of treatment, usually because it is advanced. Of

nificantly more compliant [in the prevention treatment program] than the American born.One sees more middle-class immigrants coming and [they are] maybe more compliant because of this. TB in Americans is in the underclass." Good screening programs are setup in most Asian countries which require TB screening for all immigrants over age 15 who apply for permanent resident visas. Mexico, however, has a very decentralized screening program and said to have a significant problem with fraud. Mexican immigrants are also more likely to cross into the US without screening because of their close proximity to the border. TB strains resistant to the multi-drug treatments currently being used to fight active cases are more likely to be found in immigrants due to prior, incomplete treatment in their native countries. The five cases of multi-drug resistant TB in SF last year were in foreign-born patients.

point." About fifteen 'Orders of Isolation' are served a year to non-compliant patients in SF, but the legal avenue is full of potholes. "We try to use the legal system, but it is very unsatisfactory because it involves so many different steps. First there is the Order of Isolation. Then, if the person is non-compliant, there is the court order. Then a warrant is issued and you get the police who are not interested in doing this [neither are] the hospital police, who don't want to go off hospital premises."

No Easy Rx

Combating TB involves long treatment. "We have excellent drugs," says Dr. Schecter, "we should be able to cure almost 100 percent of cases, but minimum treatment is six months and side effects do occur. It takes a long time to cure." The disease process is complex, surrounded by many myths. "In people coming from abroad," says Dr. Goodman, "there is a great deal of fear about TB and fear about not being cured. People don't know that it's spread by airborne droplets." Many people are afraid that they will contract the disease after little exposure. Though catching the requires "close quarters with someone with active disease....One hour of exposure is probably not enough." The most people with a positive skin test do not have active disease. A positive skin test means that someone has been exposed to TB but not that they have an active disease nor that they will necessarily develop active disease. "It is difficult for people to understand the difference between infection and disease; the concept that people may harbor TB for a long portion of life without getting sick."

For the homeless, TB is an additional problem to the many they already face. Harry Williams, a homeless man staying at the 5th and Bryant shelter, had a positive skin test in the past. "I was taking medicine, but I stopped taking it because I was in jail. [The homeless] are not worried about TB." Other homeless people do worry about contagion, though. Richard Carter, a homeless man moved from one shelter to another because he feared contracting the disease. "I know a guy who has it at North [shelter, in the Tenderloin], and he goes around coughing. Everyone knows he's got it. I came over here because he was at North....He wasn't taking his medication....I know about ten people who left [North shelter] because of him." Staff members at 5th and Bryant Streets say they try to respond to pleas from TB Control to track down active cases but confidentiality rules limit their intervention. "We can't tell anything about anyone. We can't pass information to other shelters," says one shelter worker.

Several newspapers have listed the comeback of TB as one of the most under-reported stories of the 1990s. At the same time, TB has been underfunded by the state government. "Five years ago it was not true that the state provided money for TB control," says Dr. Goodman. "It used to be virtually all a local effort." But lately there has been more money. SFGH has one of the three model centers for TB control in the US. Some of this money is spurring research; and therefore new drugs for fighting TB. Still experts admit that globally TB will continue to be a huge killer. With the spread of HIV, Dr. Goodman notes that "where HIV and TB coexist in Asia and equatorial Africa, I can't believe it won't be anything but a continuous public health problem for decades." And among our disadvantaged populations in the US, TB does not appear to be leaving us anytime soon.

Symptoms of active TB include prolonged cough, weight loss, fevers, and nightsweats. Free evaluation and medication are available to all SF residents at the SFGH TB Clinic 206-6907.

Karin Dydell is a medical student at UCSF

TB CASES IN SAN FRANCISCO BY ETHNIC GROUP, 1990-94										
ETHNIC GROUP	1990 (N=334)		1991 (N=333)		1992 (N=355)		1993 (N=356)		1994 (N=280)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Asian	156	47%	161	48%	167	47%	188	53%	150	54%
Chinese	76		77		75		90		79	
Filipino	47		46		60		61		51	
SF Asian	21		29		17		27		11	
Other Asian	12		9		15		10		9	
White	91	27%	67	20%	73	21%	59	17%	55	19%
African Amer.	51	15%	64	19%	65	18%	52	15%	41	15%
Hispanic	33	10%	34	10%	48	14%	49	13%	32	11%
Other	3	1%	7	2%	2	1%	7	2%	2	1%

Tuberculosis, a disease once thought curable in the US, has reared its head in the past decade, and San Francisco has not been spared. The overall number of new, active cases in SF dropped from 356 in 1993 to 280 in 1994. Nonetheless, a combination of social ills (homelessness, drug use, poverty) along with the HIV epidemic and immigrants from TB riddled countries keep the disease alive. In San Francisco, the highest rates of active cases occur in the Tenderloin, some parts of SOMA, and around 16th and Mission. According to Dr. Gisela Schecter, direc-

the 280 new active cases last year, 64 percent were in foreign-born patients. Of these cases, the majority occurred in Asian immigrants and less than ten percent in Latin American immigrants. Of US-born cases about half were in African Americans and half in Whites. Less than a quarter of total Latino cases were in US-born Latinos. 48 percent of total US-born cases were in HIV+ patients.

Though tuberculosis runs higher in immigrants, it is sometimes easier to control in this population. According to Dr. Schecter immigrant "patients are sig-

TB and AIDS


TB's national rise correlates with the burgeoning of the HIV epidemic. TB case numbers climbed in the later 1980s and early 1990s. 4 percent of people with HIV develop TB. Initially, cases in San Francisco's HIV+ category were in a more compliant group of patients: middle class gay males. SF has maintained significantly lower rates of multi-drug resistant cases compared to East coast cities such as New York. Dr. Stephen Goodman of the SFGH TB Clinic says that the "outbreaks of multi-drug resistance on the East Coast have tended to be in HIV+ patients who were non-compliant with the initial outbreak of disease." But as HIV spreads to more impoverished and drug-using populations, TB will be more difficult to combat. "Now [HIV] is gradually involving more bisexuals, drug users, women through partners of drug users," explained Dr. Goodman, "and this has had an impact on TB."

TB represents a significant risk for people with weak immune systems. "It's not so hard to get infected with TB," explains Dr. Goodman, "but to progress to active disease is more difficult. In very young children, the elderly, and the immuno-compromised disease can progress very rapidly." Health care workers with HIV are at high risk because of their increased exposure. "We've had a number of HIV+ male nurses and doctors contract TB from occupational exposure," says Dr. Schecter. "It is a very real consideration for immuno-compromised healthcare workers." For those who live in crowded areas such as jails, shelters, and housing projects it represents a serious risk and public health problem.

Screening the homeless is particularly difficult. "Fifty percent of the homeless use shelters for episodic housing," according to Dr. Schecter. Convincing the transient homeless to be screened and then keep track of them is nearly impossible. "First of all [the skin test requires] a needle and people don't like that," explains Dr. Schecter, "and the likelihood of transiently homeless persons returning to get the test read is 60 to 70 percent. If the skin test is positive, only about 50 percent make it to get a chest X-ray. 20 percent or less of homeless can complete a preventive course of drug therapy." In SF there is a high transmission of TB among the homeless. Shelter staff are told to look out for clients with signs of active TB, such as prolonged cough; but, obtain skin test results only for those homeless people who are on "case management," about 50 percent of the shelter populations.

A combination of incentives, outreach, and legal sanctions are used to reach the homeless by the public health department. "We do screening in SOMA hotels, active case screening in shelters, direct observed treatment, preventive therapy, and have a mobile X-ray van," says Schecter. Occasionally patients leave the hospital against medical advice. "We can't put them in a locked ward unless it's a felony -- which TB is not. They are released...and told to show up in two weeks in court which is a joke at that

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AN ONGOING REPORT ON THE ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY
AND RELATED MATTERS
by Victor Miller

2ND ANNUAL MISSION BUSINESS FORUM

While the local economy may at times seem in serious need of a jump start business associations in the Mission appear to be going through a period of renewed activity and vitality. Case in point, the Second Annual Mission Business Forum sponsored jointly by the Mission Merchants and 24th Street Merchants Associations. The forum scheduled for Tuesday, August 8 at Bethel Temple (corner of 24th and Valencia) will run from 10 am to 3 pm.

Highlights of the event include:

- A panel discussion on Business Improvement Districts featuring Supervisor Barbara Kaufman from 10 to 10:45
- A panel discussion on the value of a Mission Master Plan with opening remarks by Supervisor Susan Leal from 1:30 to 2:15
- A variety of workshops by organizations providing small business support services such as loan packaging, security and employ-

ment from 11 to 2

- A free lunch between 12 and 1!!

This year's expanded program features a reception at the Bay View Building at 22nd and Mission from 5 to 7 pm. Besides being a good opportunity to meet other Mission business owners and sample the always generous fare put out by the reception's organizer the Mission Economic Development Association, the event will also be an awards ceremony where numerous individuals will be honored for their contributions to the community. Those singled out for recognition include, Francis Phillips former director of Intersection for the Arts, the traveling musical group Los Bandoleros, Sylvie Lemur of Ti Couz Creperie, Captain Joaquin Santos of Mission Police Station and John Roumbanis of the Department of Public Works.

For complete information on The Mission Business Forum call Jorge Hernandez at 824-7728.

LILLI ANN: GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

The saga of the Lilli Ann Corporation continues to be one of good news/bad news.

First the bad news was that Lilli Ann, a nationally known garment manufacturer based in the Mission for 66 years was going to close its doors. This meant a loss of 150 jobs.

Then the good news. Through the efforts of the office Supervisor Mabel Teng, the Mission Economic Development Association and others a buyer had been found and Lilli Ann was staying open.

Then the bad news: 90 of the 150 workers were being laid off by the new owners.

Then the good news: a loan from a pool of federal money known as 108

Funds would allow the company to purchase cutting edge equipment and over the next 18 months rehire all the old employees, who would have right of first refusal in regard to the new jobs. Better yet was the possibility of creating new jobs once Lilli Ann was fully retooled.

Then the bad news: Lilli Ann is in an unreinforced masonry building that must be reinforced; a new factory must be found within two to three months. The company will stay open but not necessarily in the Mission. John Young, legislative assistant to Supervisor Teng said an active search is underway for a new site. The search includes but is not exclusive to the Mission.

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY UPDATE

Six San Francisco neighborhoods are part of an innovative economic development effort known as the Enterprise Community or EC. Federal funds, a private foundation grant and in kind contributions from city agencies for the EC come to about \$14 million. Each neighborhood has organized it self in its own way.

The Enterprise Community in the Mission has developed over the course of five public meetings held between the middle of April and the middle of July, attended by over 100 interested parties. Besides setting priorities for use of the EC funds, these sessions resulted in the establishment of democratic process for selecting representatives to the city-wide EC board and a strong conflict of interest resolution, restricting those representatives from receiving any material benefits from their participation in EC activities.

The Mission selected six people to serve on the EC Board: a representative and alternate from the business sector, the non-profit community and neighborhood residents. All are required to be Mission District residents. This process is an attempt to end years of divisiveness over various economic development schemes that have pitted residents, non-profits and businesses against one another in some very unpleasant community brawls. It is the intention of those working on the EC that this program be inclusive of all elements and not seen as

the pet pork barrel of one group or another.

The residency requirement is a result of a strong feeling among Mission residents that a disproportionate amount of the decision making process regarding public policy is being made by non-residents who are not directly impacted by their decisions. This has been especially true of the directors of the Mission's numerous non-profit organizations, few of whom live in the community.

In addition to the five large public meetings our neighborhood has also had weekly bench mark committee meetings (open to all comers) to hammer into semi-final form the overwhelming number of suggestions on what to do with the finite amount of EC dollars. The Benchmark Committee's recommendations were further prioritized by a vote at our last general meeting in July.

The priorities set in this process concern the Mission's need to retain and rehabilitate existing housing, provide greater educational, vocational and recreational opportunities for youth and attract new businesses while strengthening existing ones. The community reps are now taking the 18 Mission benchmarks through, what we hope is, the absolutely final condensation process.

For information on future meetings of the Mission Enterprise Community or to contact Mission representatives call Maria Estrada at the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission at 285-5950.



BIKE PLAN UNVEILED

The San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee (SFBAC) released its long awaited plan for a more "bicycle friendly" city to Mission residents at a meeting at the Women's Building. The meeting took place on July 11 and drew a substantial number of community members to hear about and comment on the SFBAC's findings and recommendations. Specifically, they addressed the significant impact the plan will have on Valencia St. and quibbled about the proposed circuitous route from the Mission to Golden Gate Park.

The Bicycle Plan for San Francisco is an idea that has been kicked around for many years. Seen originally as innovative, but ultimately too idealistic and impractical, the plan is finally coalescing under pressure from city planners and residents who see bicycles as a cheap and eco-friendly transportation alternative. Bicycles could, given enough impetus, relieve automobile traffic by getting commuters, tourists, and those engaged in short, errand-like trips out of their cars and onto bikes. This is no small task though, automobiles are our feet more often than not.

So what can one do to change this? Make the city so bike accessible that one would be foolish to not use a bicycle at least some of the time. To the BAC this means opening all forms of municipal transit to biker's needs, establishing bicycle paths, lanes, and routes between commercial, residential, and tourist centers, and appealing to the casual biker as much as the cyclist. "We want people to understand biking as a real and viable alternative, everyone who cycles is our constituent," says Lucinda Means of the BAC. From simple street maintenance, like patching holes and realigning dangerous drainage grates, to major structural changes, median or lane removal for instance, the BAC hopes to insinuate bicycle awareness into the city's unconscious for good.

Committee members answered numerous questions peppered at them by

the Mission's large and well informed biking community. The majority of questions dealt with Valencia St. which will, under the proposed plan, have its median removed and curb lane widened, making room for a bike lane that will traverse Valencia in its entirety. "Our goal is to make Valencia as safe as possible," said Ms. Means. The Valencia lane would end at Market St. which downtown commuters would then follow to arrive at finance and business central.

Another issue raised was "The Squiggle," a route from the Mission to Golden Gate park. Following north on 17th St., it turns right on Sanchez, crosses Market Street, turns left on Waller, right on Scott, and finally left on Haight Street, arriving at Golden Gate Park. An initially confused audience, soon understood "The Squiggle" route, pleased with the plan. Some discussion among attendants lingered, rolling like surf, and spilling eventually into the foyer and non-partisan outdoors. "It ain't right, Sanchez at Market will be a bloodbath," remarked one Mission resident, a grizzled veteran of the streets by appearance, a bit disenchanted with the idea.

In general though, the crowd was agreeable, and a feeling of unity broke smiles upon most faces, warm hugs and handshakes all around.

The final and most pertinent question remained unanswered: When? The Bicycle Plan has many legislative hurdles to clear, and even if it does become an active policy, funded and incorporated, its enactment will be a lengthy process. Don't look for it all at once was the cautionary advice. But already the idea of enfranchising bicyclists has yielded results; Caltrain has opened all its doors to bikes, Bart is under pressure to do so as well. Bicycle storage is gradually infiltrating city garages. Be hopeful and be active and who knows, maybe someday, during rush hour the only sound will be the gentle clatter of sprockets and chains.

Kurt Bier

KIDS BLAST CURFEW

Mayor Frank Jordan has proposed a teen-curfew for San Francisco young people -- young people who are not happy about it. A community speak out held at The Mission Cultural Center gave them a chance to speak their minds. Speak, rant, and ramble they did. Sponsored by PODER, YMAC (Youth Making a Change) and STEP (Student Empowerment Program), the two hour forum allowed everyone from young adults to community leaders to city supervisors to voice their opinions.

The meeting took place on July 17, attended by some fifty people of all ages, races, and genders. The topic drew strong comments from local residents who feel the curfew will affect them disproportionately. The curfew makes it illegal for any one under the age of 18 to be on the street after 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. To the most of the audience this meant that in an area like the Mission, with its high rate of unemployment and lack of recreational resources, kids who choose the street as their playground will be criminals.

The tenor of the gathering was one of outrage and discontent. "This is a decision

that parents should make, not the government," said one young woman to general agreement. Mike Espinoza pointed out that, "Education is more important than incarceration," and Daniel Vargas concurred, "This money should be used to help us, not hurt us." One young man opined, "It's like your teeth, you've got to brush your teeth or you get plaque and shit," the metaphor of the evening. Supervisor Angela Alioto was appropriately outraged, slamming her fist in time to "We need real solutions. I am against any curfew!!!"

Many decried the lack of viable alternatives to hanging out on the street. "We need places to do what we want to do, not just what others think we should do," remarked Carl Stanya and many others echoed his opinion. "Some kids have got no place to go because their parents are on drugs or are abusing them," said Sandino, YMAC representative.

If you are interested in learning more or in becoming involved in the curfew issue contact PODER at 431-4210.

Kurt Bier

DREAM



"Dream", a 16 by 20 foot mural by artist Daniel Galvez is now being put together. When completed the mural, a joint project of Mission Merchants Association, the Mission Economic Development Association, the Neighborhood Beautification Fund and the Department of Parking and Traffic, will be mounted on

the wall of the Bartlett and 21st St. Parking Garage. Sixteen smaller panels created Mission District youth will form a border around the center piece section which is pictured above. Plans are to put a series of twelve murals of this size around the parking garage but so far, there is only funding for this one.



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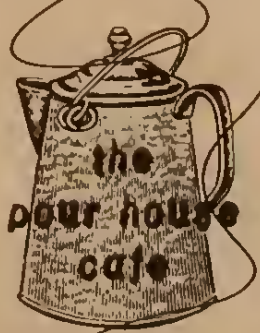
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Mission Housing Development Corporation

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THE MISSION HAS LOST ITS BEST FRIEND OFFICER RAY BENSON STAR #1681

12\5\46 - 6\28\95

by Ethel Newlin

Every time I think of Ray Benson -- since he moved on to his next adventure -- I think of a new spin on an old Bob Goltswaite routine, "I lost my best friend last month. Well, he's not really lost...it's just that every time I look for him he's still dead." A little irreverent, perhaps, but if you knew Ray you'd know that he would have gotten the point.

I had the privilege of knowing, and working on many community projects with Officer Raymond L. Benson. I was also fortunate enough to have had Ray as my dear friend. It wasn't always easy adjusting when we entered a room and my best buddy Ray changed into his Super-Benson persona and I'd have to share Officer Benson with the multitudes.

That Ray Benson was loved was demonstrated by the 250+ people who came out on a Sunday afternoon to honor him at the benefit luncheon given by the union he tirelessly served. They donated thousands of dollars to help out with the overwhelming expenses that went along with the illness and disability. Hundreds turned out for the Memorial reception hosted by his co-workers at Mission Police Station and filled the Swedenborgian Church for his funeral service. The attendance of well-known political figures, extended family, personal friends and people who knew him as their ultimate Community Police Officer showed the scope of the mark Ray made on the world while he was here.

Ray lived "Community Policing" in The Mission and dedicated the last few years of his life to bringing the police and the community together in a partnership that enriched all of us. Few people knew that Ray was in almost constant pain most of that time and even fewer knew that his eyesight was failing. When he couldn't deny his near-blindness any more he joked that he was giving some of us the "honor" of allowing us to drive him. It was his way of saying "I trust you," which was the real honor.

Ray Benson kept working until his body refused to let him, yet even then, his mind didn't quit. He still talked about getting back to work. He worried about the future of The Mission, about his fellow police officers and, most of all, about the young people he saw struggling to survive. He took a couple of very lucky young ladies under his wing and gave them the paternal guidance they needed, as well as an occasional pizza.

It's hard to write without sharing some very personal things about my best buddy. We had an agreement never to give any reporter a statement (regarding each other or a project we worked on together) that would embarrass either one of us, so I'll just say, "I lost my best friend last month. Well, he's not really lost...it's just that every time I look for him he's still dead."

The Mission may have lost its best friend last month but it surely is much richer for Ray Benson having been here. Let's not let the work he did to bring this community together die with him.



Ray Benson and City Attorney Louise Renne on a hotel inspection tour.
Photo by Eugene Kettner

500 YEARS OF RACISM UNENDING

I flash back into the history of my people and hear the screams of our ancestors ringing 'round my head. The white man is invading our land and taking control of our people. They are using our men as servants, our women as sex slaves. They are wiping out our children and our elders with their diseases, and in doing so they take away our past and prevent our future from ever happening. They are robbing us of our innocence, our pride, our beliefs. But worst of all they've tried to take away our identity.

Now I come back to the times I'm living in today. In 1995 they call me an immigrant, a gangbanger, and a menace to society. They say I don't belong on these lands, that I don't have a right to them. The "wetbacks" they have in this country already cause enough trouble. They say that instead of going to school, we stand on corners, selling drugs or claiming colors for which we're willing to die. All of the sudden they want to blame us for the violence in this country, the drugs that are imported, and, of course, that we are responsible for taking jobs away from the "real Americans."

How dare they criticize us after everything they put us through! Well, let me tell you something. Yeah. We Latinos gangbang and so does every other race in this country; but, you won't see a white man's face on the ten o'clock news for pulling a drive-by. They say we should be in school; but, when you're there, you're only taught what they want you to know. We are not taught about our culture, or from where we come, or how proud we should be of who we are. In their schools,

They say that we are all about violence. I laugh when I hear this. It's funny to me because I've heard so many stories about trains, cars, and trailers left abandoned near ghettos all over this country full of guns and explosives. They know damn well where those guns came from and where there are going the moment they allow them to enter this country! They also know who will use them and who will die because of them. So I don't even want to hear it. You mean to tell me we are the most powerful nation in the world and we can't stop something as simple as getting guns off the streets! Please!

An "immigrant" they call me. Someone who comes to this country, takes away jobs from citizens by allowing ourselves to be exploited, uses up the health care and benefits that only "Americans" should have. If we go back a thousand years, we were the ones who nurtured this land without limitations. We took care of these lands before the white man even knew about its existence. So if anyone is to be told to go back it should be the white man.

Latinos have come a long way, but the climb isn't over yet. That's why it's important for us to come together as one, and plan the future of our children, so their struggle won't be the same as ours, and so their destiny will be in their hands and not in someone else's.

So, put down your guns and put out your hearts and I guarantee you that "la Raza" won't die.

Iris Franco

Gang members: This is your column. This is your voice. Send your words, poems, rap songs and art to: Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor for Gangspeak, c/o New Mission News, 777 Valencia Street, S.F., CA 94110 or call Deanne at 864-6531; pager: 227-6338.



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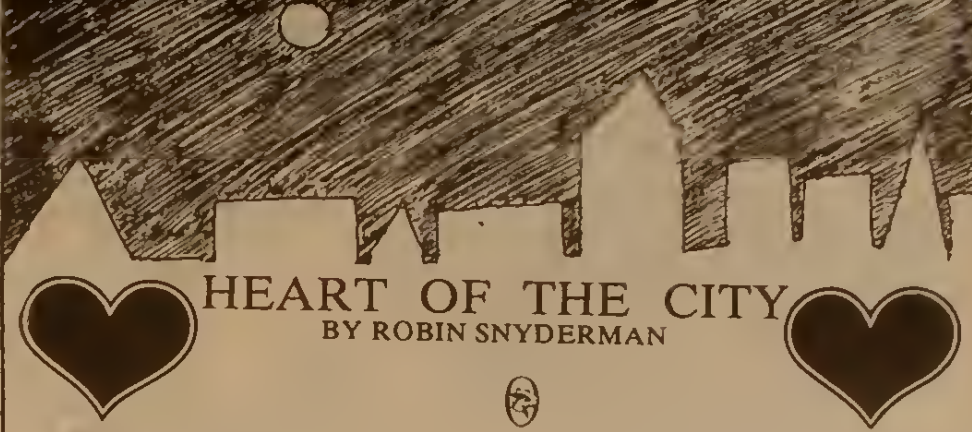
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HEART OF THE CITY
 BY ROBIN SNYDERMAN

Criminal Justice.
Community Organizing.

Most of us are familiar with these concepts. We know people in these fields -- police officers, on one hand, or tenant advocates, on the other. But, more and more -- especially in progressive, cosmopolitan cities -- criminal justice and community organizing projects are getting wed together under the auspices of crime prevention.

Sound like odd bedfellows? Well, this is San Francisco...and the alliances grow even more interesting from here:

ANATOMY OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

The Mission District is not unfamiliar with the notion of community planning. Some people will say, in light of the most recent Enterprise Community work, that we've gotten rather good at it. (See June, July and August New Mission News articles, "It's the Economy Stupid! An ongoing report on the Enterprise Community and related matters")

Others will disagree, pointing to the chaotic community forums over whether or not to designate the Mission as a survey area for the Redevelopment Agency. They would argue that we haven't had any tools for making consensus decisions, with integrity, as a neighborhood since the hey-day of the Mission Coalition organization in the late 60s and early 70s. Indeed, one of the facilitators of the Enterprise Community meetings has repeatedly stated that those involved with the Enterprise process made a pact, in order to avoid contentious debates, *not* to organize their respective constituencies to become involved!

This is quite different than the spirit of the MCJC proposal, which stresses that "neighbors and residents, businesses and parents are not 'clients' who receive services but are partners and participants in making the neighborhood safer." Agencies funded with this Prop Q money must describe how they will go the extra mile to include all constituencies, cultures and generations in decision-making. To complicate things further, the Mission police district is slightly larger than what we usually consider the Mission. It includes much of the Castro, Noe Valley, and several blocks north of Market Street.

INTERESTING PROPOSITION

On July 19th, responding to an announcement from the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (MCJC) about funds available for crime prevention, several Mission District loyalists joined activists from throughout the City at a meeting in the War Memorial Building. Most folks in attendance, already familiar with the MCJC, were looking for some "seed money" for their block clubs, their neighborhood associations or their nonprofit agencies. (It is, after all, the MCJC that supports other such grassroots endeavors via funds from its Neighborhood Empowerment Program or its Community Partnership Project).

Upon arrival, interested parties received a packet of information, a "Request for Proposals," which provided the sort of guiding principles that many have come to associate with San Francisco's MCJC. "American society has traditionally looked to the criminal justice system for protection from violence," read a section about background information. "Criminal justice measures have been useful. However, they have not enabled us to satisfactorily reduce the burden of violence upon society . . . Safety efforts are not solely dependent on police power, but rely on the belief that neighbors can work with neighbors to take care of neighborhoods and eventually make for safer and more productive neighborhoods."

What surprised many in attendance, however, was the realization that this proposal required people to expand their definition of "neighbor" beyond their block club, beyond the traditional focus of their nonprofit agency, and to look -- at a minimum -- at the whole police district in which they live.

Funds are available for such efforts because, last November, voters passed Proposition Q, setting aside \$900,000 (in each of the next three years) for a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program. Accordingly, the MCJC is looking for a single agency or a consortium of community-based groups to implement a city-wide crime prevention program which is responsive to the variety of neighborhood needs. In each of the ten police districts, the goals are to reduce crime; improve communication among neighbors, businesses, city workers, service providers, faith community, and law enforcement to promote neighborhood safety; and, increase and sustain the involvement of residents in crime prevention activities and the development of healthier communities.

The funds are primarily meant to employ crime prevention specialists who serve as community organizers to pull together a neighborhood by assisting the diversified constituencies in "developing and implementing strategies to address factors that contribute to crime."

AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

By September, a community-based agency (or consortium of groups) will receive about \$80,000 per police district to pursue community organizing, criminal justice, and crime prevention strategies.

For the Mission, the real question is: Can \$80,000 a year worth of organizing pull us together to agree on some projects that will impact us positively? Can we, substantively, bring together groups as diversified as the 24th Street Revitalization Association, Calle 22, the Mayor's Mission Task Force, the Community Peace Initiative, other block clubs, merchants groups, non-profit agencies and "umbrella" efforts?

Peter Athanas, owner of "Kilowatt" on 16th Street, is an active member of the 16th Street Neighborhood Association, and probably speaks for many people in his musings on the subject of district-wide organizing. "It's hard enough just to get people involved along the 16th Street corridor with 16th street issues. Because residents, merchants, artists and service providers are all participating, everybody has different priorities and agendas. It takes a longtime for us to mold our ideas together into common goals and tangible projects. We definitely recognize the value of working with other groups in different parts of the Mission, but we've only got limited time and resources."

Thus, the impetus for Prop Q...to give neighborhoods the resources to buy a little more time, employ a couple of people who can help bridge gaps, build consensus, and form new alliances.

GREAT CREPES ON PLANET VALENCIA

NEWEST EDITION TO CULINARY BOOM IS A HIT

by Stett Holbrook

The tortilla may still be the Mission's food wrapper of choice, but in the small-hut-mighty culinary world on Valencia street, the classy crepe is ascendant. The latest crepe cafe to open is Valencia Crepes. Located at Valencia and 21st Streets, the restaurant is the latest addition to a street already well known for its culinary delights.

For years Valencia street was a commercial backwater compared to Mission Street's dense blocks of restaurants, markets, and service stores. But over the last decade or so, the street's night clubs, cafes, bookstores, and bars have contributed to a vibrant street life. Nowhere is this vitality more apparent than in the proliferation and variety of restaurants.

Valencia Crepes owner and Chef Mike Jweinat thought the 21st Street area needed a crepe place and he seems to have chosen the location for his new restaurant well. On both of my visits to Valencia Crepes, the place was almost full. "It's a good street," Jweinat said. "It's coming up."

Jweinat believes that all good restaurants must provide good food, good service, and good atmosphere. "You don't have these things, you're not in business." He has made good on his own advice.

Valencia Crepes seems to be doing many things right. When I visited on a hot Mission night, two large overhead fans chopped through the air and mixed with equally cool jazz tunes to make for a tranquil refuge from the heat. Spotless hardwood floors, fresh flowers at each table and the work of local artists on the wall added to a simple but elegant atmosphere. Outside, five tables allowed diners to savor the last of the day's sun and watch the traffic go by. Of course, ambience means nothing if the food is no good. At Valencia Crepes, the food is indeed good.

In addition to crepes the restaurant serves soups, salads, sandwiches, breakfasts, wine and beer, and a full line of coffee drinks. I, however, visited Valencia Crepes' to sample its eponymous dish. Crepes range in price from \$4.25 for cheese to \$8.95 for a chicken fajita crepe. (Before biting into a crepe, postmodernists and cultural anthropologists can savor the irony: a Tex-Mex fajita filling wrapped by a French crepe, served in the Latino Mission District, cooked by a Palestinian, and served to a mainly Anglo clientele....mmm good.)

I ordered the Tuscan crepe (\$6.95) and my dining companion opted for one filled with just good ol' cheese. The Tuscan crepe was topped with a tangy marinara sauce and filled with sauteed eggplant, onions, mushrooms, and ricotta and parmesan cheeses. It was excellent. The cheese crepe was good and, well, cheesy. I've enjoyed crepes that are paper thin and ones that are thick. I like the thick ones. Valencia Crepes' crepes are definitely thick, but verge on being a little tough. Too much gluten? Both crepes came with a satisfying mound of home-fried potatoes and fresh fruit. We also ordered a green salad (\$2.25) that was fresh and generous. I've heard that iceberg lettuce is making a come-back, a return I don't welcome. Our salad was made with green leaf lettuce and none of its crunchy-hut-flavorless cousin iceberg. Also available were Caesar, spinach, and Greek salads.

After our dinner, we had to try a dessert crepe. Choices included banana, strawberry, chocolate and peach melba and range from \$4.45 to \$4.75. We went for the peach. Desserts can be ruined by being too sweet. I had fears of canned peaches bathed in heavy syrup. Not the case. The peaches were fresh and juicy, just warmed through and pleasantly dulcet.

Although it's been open less than two



Chef and owner Mike Jweinat

Photo by Eugene Kettner

months, Valencia Crepes definitely has its act together. In the near future, look for their non-crepe dinner specials featuring seafood, pastas, and vegetarian dishes. Oh yeah, on my second visit, I tried the coffee. It was good -- bad coffee is not

allowed on Valencia Street.

Valencia Crepes is located at 1007 1/2 Valencia Street and open Sunday through Thursday 7am to 10 pm and Friday and Saturday 7am to 2am.

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Photo by Laura Sensabaugh

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mission broadsider

by andy solow

OPEN SPACE AT A SNAIL'S PACE

In April of 1995, I interviewed a variety of City employees regarding the status and completion dates for \$4 million worth of ongoing open space projects in the Mission District. Though funding for all of these projects has been available for some time, only Alioto Mini-park, after a long series of infuriating delays, has been completed. The following is an update on the current status of these projects.

No Soccer, Sucker Field

This undertaking involves minimal grading, installation of an irrigation system, and resodding. Four months ago, SF Rec & Park Assistant General Manager Phil Arnold said that construction would begin in April 1995 and should be completed by July of 1995, depending on the weather. As of July 17th, the finish grade had been completed and hydro seeding had begun. According to Park Planner Deborah Learner, completion is expected by September 15, 1995; but, I think that the end of October is more realistic.

Toxic MOU Park

Due to the presence of toxic contaminants on the site, acquisition and development of the 23rd & Treat Park has been on hold since February. The current owner of the property and the City have been arguing for six months about who should pay for toxics testing.

In a May 1995 letter to the Mission community, Supervisor Susan Leal indicated her belief that the owner and the City had reached an agreement on the testing issue. But, at press time, no memorandum of understanding (MOU) had been signed and no testing had been done.

According to the Steven Rexrode who represents the owner, Embarcadero Owners II, the City is making unreasonable demands regarding liability for the cost of toxics testing. According to Harry Quinn, Assistant Director of Property for the City and County of San Francisco Real Estate Department, Embarcadero Owners II is nit picking the testing MOU to death and driving the City Attorney crazy in the process. Quinn indicated that the City is considering declaring eminent domain and condemn-

ing the property if a toxics testing MOU is not signed forthwith.

As I have been saying for at least three months, it is critical that a responsible and politically powerful person like the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors

collect all of the people involved in this real estate transaction and lock them in a little room together with their respective attorneys and a computer until they agree. If the City ends up condemning the property, the completion of the 23rd and Treat Street Park could be delayed for years while the matter is hung up in litigation.

Arising Emergency Playground

Four months ago, Tim Lilliquist, Assistant to the General Manager of Rec & Park, told me that the first phase of Rec & Park's two phase development plan was well under way. At that time, Lilliquist indicated that by July 1, 1995, the empty lot next to Mission Recreation Center near 21st and Harrison, would be paved and fenced, a \$100,000 artificial turf mini-soccer field (donated by Addidas Corp. on behalf of the Mission Youth Soccer League) would be installed, and access to the paved open space and the soccer field would be provided directly from inside Mission Rec Center by cutting a door into the building's South wall.

Lilliquist now says that the target completion date has been pushed back to December 1995 "unless other emergencies arise". Lilliquist also indicated that use and configuration of the remaining open space will be determined by public input at a community meeting to be held sometime in September at Mission Rec.

No Way, Jose Coronado Playground

In October of 1994, the Rec & Park Commission approved the community's renovation plan for Jose Coronado (JC) Playground. As of March 20, 1995, no additional work had been done even though this project is fully funded. At that time, project architect Patrick Mora and Park Planner Joanne Wilson both indicated that work on architectural renderings and construction drawings would be under way by April 1, 1995.

In fact, the contract necessary to fund the remaining architectural work has still not been completed, work has still not

begun, and there is still no projected completion date for this project.

I find it incredible that it could take an entire year just to create a simple contract for architectural services to draw pictures of a bathroom, a recreation room, a small office and a few minor changes to the lighting system and the fencing in a little neighborhood playground.

However, there is a ray of hope. At press time, Phil Arnold indicated that he had signed the new architectural contract and sent it to the City Controller's office around July 15th.

Prevailing Wage Playground

Through the efforts of the Mission Playground Association, both Open Space and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been allocated to pay for the renovation of the children's play area at Mission Playground. According to Park Planner Deborah Learner, transfer of funds to DPW's Bureau of Engineering occurred on June 13 and a site survey is in progress. Unfortunately, due to a prevailing wage controversy involving the SF Conservation Corps (SFCC), the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Rec & Park Dept., the Community Development Block Grant that the SFCC got for this project will be unavailable and some cost increase is expected. Additional open space funds will have to be allocated if this project is to be completed.

It's Finally Over Park

The physical renovation of Alioto Mini-Park (20th & Capp) was begun nearly two years ago. Incredibly, the renovation was not completed until late last month.

In October of 1994, Park Planner Deborah Learner predicted that Alioto Mini-Park would definitely be open by the end of 1994 and probably much sooner.

In April 1995, I interviewed Janet Gomes, Work Programs Director for the San Francisco Conservation Corps (SFCC). At that time, according to Gomes: "...weather permitting, Alioto Mini-Park will be open by April 13, 1995 and the installation of the children's play apparatus will be completed by June 1, 1995."

In early July, I again asked the SFCC when Alioto Mini-Park would be completed. Both Ann Cochran, Executive Director of SFCC and Janet Gomes said: "No comment"; and did not return subsequent telephone inquiries. Even more outrageous, instead of concentrating on the immediate completion of Alioto Mini-Park, Ann Cochran was busy trying to cover herself. On July 12, 1995, Cochran sent all of the members of the SFCC Board the following letter:

"I am writing to let you know that Andy Solow, a writer for the Mission News Newspaper (sic) may be contacting you for information about delays on one of the projects we are working on. In a previous encounter with the gentleman, he grossly misquoted me, misrepresented the work of the Corps, and was inaccurate in his account of delays in the installation of the play structure at Alioto Park. Based on this I have refused to answer any more of his questions, and he in turn informed me that he would be contacting Board Members. In the event that he does contact you I would encourage you to refer him back to my office. If you have any questions about this or would like more information about the project in question, please feel free to give me a call."

Board members of the SFCC include: Hon. J. Anthony Kline, Leamon Abrams, Charles Breyer, Mary Burns, Tom Evans, Hon. David Garcia, Virginia C. Gee, Michael Hardeman, Dan Johnson, Leroy King, Anson Moran, Hadley Roff, Deborah Rohrer, Waldemar Rojas, Patricia Schifferle, and Jaime Villagomez.

I hereby request that the Board of Directors of the SFCC investigate this matter and take appropriate remedial action to assure that in future, the Executive Director of the SFCC performs his/her duties in a courteous, and responsive manner.

Wait Until Spring

The renovation of this soccer field will include: removal of old declining trees and substantial grading to make the field larger; relocation of the existing bathroom; installation of new soil and turf; and addition of handicapped access & some new fencing. Field lighting is not included. According to Learner: "Construction documents are nearly complete. If favorable bids are received, construction is expected to take place in Spring, 1996."

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FUNDING ALERT

The United Way Community Fund invites nonprofit groups to apply for funding. Information Packets and Letter of Intent forms may be picked up at any of the five county locations listed below. Nonprofit groups must have 501(c)(3) status or have arranged a fiscal agent relationship with a 501(c)(3) organization. Deadline for Letters of Intent is September 1, 1995. For more information, call the appropriate county hotline.

Alameda County Hotline:
(510) 238-2449

Oakland - 1970 Broadway, Suite 340

Contra Costa County Hotline:
(510) 609-2421

Concord - 1070 Concord Ave., Suite 270

Marin County Hotline:
(415) 492-4406

San Rafael - 4340 Redwood Highway, Suite 400

San Francisco County Hotlines:
(415) 772-4455 or 772-4307

San Francisco - 50 California Street, Suite 200

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Kanoheda Dahlinohaha

American Indian Community News

By: Patti Jo King

TO BE OR WANNABE

At a recent Pow Wow in Indian Country, I was watching the contests and "specials," munching frybread and home-style soup and enjoying the intertribal dancing when I ran into friends who also live in San Francisco. We shared coffee and exchanged the hometown gossip. June through August is traditional Pow Wow season and everyone returns home for ceremonies and special summer events. It is the perfect time to catch up on news around the Rez.

At home we are well-known to all and related to most. Our complex kinship systems dictate close familial relationships with many of our fellow tribesmen. Those not directly related are related to your in-laws. In short, everybody on the Rez knows who belongs -- and who does not.

Not so here in the urban Indian community. Here we are merely faces in the crowd, relationships are impersonal, and our way of life is often puzzling or meaningless to others. It gets lonely in the city, so we go home annually, to renew our kinships, take in the news and refresh our spirit.

to use as their passport to an Indian identity. Many of these Wannabes simply invented an Indian heritage, got themselves an outfit and made tracks for a Pow Wow. In some cases, this mimicry went on for years. After a while, they began to believe it was their right to live out their Indian fantasy. They started to feel that Indians who did not want to "share" their culture and religion were mean-spirited and selfish, and saw no harm in the charade. Some even sought validation from legitimate Indians. However, Indians know who is who in Indian Country. Non-Indians have no criteria for determining such.



With over 400 tribal Nations in the US alone, determining Indian heritage can be confusing for non-Indians. What determines Indian-ness is knowledge of culture, language and lifestyle, not the color of one's skin. Some are dark, some light, some tall, some short. Some wear buckskin, some don't. For a while, non-Indians thought they had this identity problem licked.

Then, along came the tribal enrollment card to establish ethnicity. However, Wannabes countered by explaining that their distant Indian ancestor did not want the "tattoo of a racist government" such as an enrollment number. They refused enrollment or "hid out in the mountains." Misquoting the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887, they claim that land allotment was initially based on blood quantum, therefore, racist. This false notion has been helped along by self-serving publications such as Ward Churchill's *The Struggle for the Land*. In fact, neither the Dawes Act nor its amendment of 1891 ever mentions blood quantum as a requirement for land allotment. To this day, sovereign Indian Nations each make their own determination as to eligibility for tribal enrollment. Enrollment, then, is really a political affiliation, with each tribe's members having a vested interest in the affairs of the tribe and its land holdings. While it is true that not all Indians are enrolled (some tribes have no membership enrollment) the people of each Nation know who is related to who, who belongs, and who doesn't.

Indian identity becomes an important issue in urban areas when social services are considered. By treaty agreement, and by moral conscience, the US government has the responsibility to provide adequate healthcare and social services to American Indians. After all, we handed over our country in exchange for such services "as long as the grass grows." It is shameful when legitimate Indians can't get needed assistance because service providers cater to Indian Wannabes. Unbelievably, that is exactly what has happened in the Bay Area in recent years.

In coming months, San Francisco must face the challenge of evaluating who is being served and how. In addition, ground rules must be set to determine Indian ethnicity. By doing so, we will be taking necessary steps toward providing more adequate social services for urban Indians, and helping to restore a bit of human dignity in the process.



It was good to be home, welcomed with open arms. Most of us came to the city through the Federal Relocation Program of the 1950s and 60s, or we are offspring of relocatees. The 1940s and 50s were hard times for our reservations. Faced with severe poverty, hunger and a federal push toward tribal termination, many opted for the promises of job training, housing and the life of prosperity that Bureau of Indian Affairs relocation promised. San Francisco was one of the largest urban relocation sites. City life was a strange and frightening new experience for most relocatees. Having left behind homeland, family and friends they often felt desperate and homesick. As relocatees poured into the cities, urban Indian centers sprang up to address the needs of the transplants. In these centers, Indians could congregate with fellow natives who also faced adjustment difficulties. The relocatees, from varied tribal backgrounds, with unique languages and different cultural lifestyles, were able to build a support system based on cultural similarities, goals and concerns. Thus, the urban intertribal Indian community was born.



In San Francisco, Indians were an unseen minority. The 1969 Alcatraz Occupation was the first time many city dwellers had ever seen Indians, and a curiosity about things Indian began. When Congress passed the Indian Freedom of Religion Act in 1978, and Indians were at last given the right to practice their ancient religions, non-Indian curiosity once again piqued. People began to flock to reservations in an effort to get a glimpse of a sacred ceremony, attend a traditional Pow Wow or meet a "medicine man." Sometimes these observers took on "Indian" names and borrowed bits of ancient ceremonies to carry back to the cities. What resulted was a heinous, bastardization of the religion and culture which was often sold for profit and taught to others for the glory of the "teacher." Many of these disciples of "Indian thought" suddenly "discovered" distant Indian ancestors in the closet, pulled them out, dusted them off and put them

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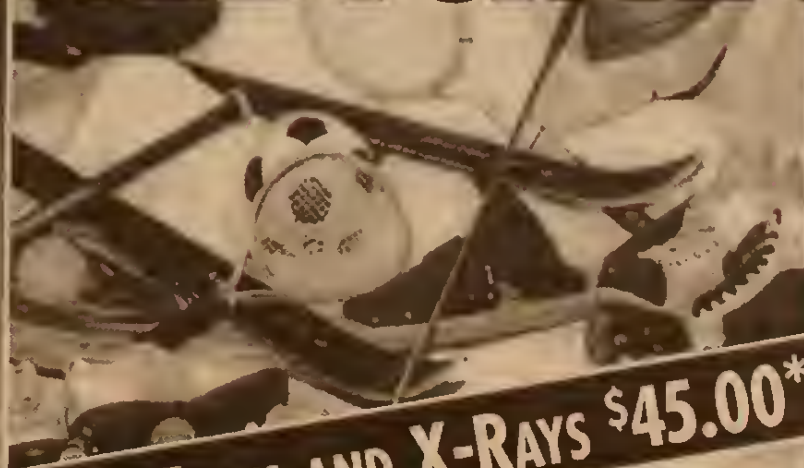
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CHIROPRACTIC NOTEBOOK

By: Dr. Ross Williams

WHAT IS A "SPRAIN\STRAIN"

Have you ever had a sprain\strain?

This type of injury is an epidemic in our society and can become much more serious than most people realize. What is it? What causes it? What can we do about it? A sprain / strain injury is caused by the overstretching and tearing of muscles, tendons and/or ligaments. (Ligaments connect bones to bones. Tendons connect muscles to bones).

You may have lifted something improperly, or a little too heavy, or had a slip and fall that suddenly overstretched and tore something. Automobile accidents often create this type of injury, commonly called "whiplash" because of how the spine is thrown back and forth, causing overstretching and tearing in the neck and back. As common as these are, perhaps the most common type sprain/strain is the "chronic couch potato syndrome." This insidious trauma occurs slowly from years of poor posture and no exercise. The weakened muscles, tendons and ligaments, stretch "out of shape" causing inflammation and back pain.

A sprain / strain heals primarily by making a scar. Just like when you cut your skin. However, the scars can't be seen because they are inside your muscles, tendons and ligaments. Sprain / strain injuries to most parts of the body are usually no big deal, besides the resulting pain and stiffness. They generally heal without creating permanent problems. Sprain / strain injuries to the spine however, are much more serious and often lead to permanent back problems, pain and a host of other seemingly unrelated health problems.

Why?

Well first, your spine is much more complicated than other joints in your body. Scars around the backbone can limit its movement and cause misalignment of the individual bones. This leads to chronic swelling, additional scar formation and often degenerative arthritis in the injured spinal joints.

Secondly, your spinal bones completely surround your central nervous system (i.e. the spinal cord) and your nerves, as they leave your spine. This anatomical fact is a very good thing because the spinal bones are designed to protect the delicate nerves and normally do a good job of it. However, when sprain / strain type injuries near the spine cause chronic swelling, spinal misalignment and poor spinal joint movement, this leads to pressure

and stress on your nerves.

Long standing nerve stress will seriously affect the quality of the nerve signal passing through those affected nerves. Your nerve signals coordinate and control all parts of your body (heart, lungs, kidneys, stomach, liver, muscles, etc.). When the nerve becomes stressed, the signal it carries is of lower quality and can lead to all sorts of those seemingly unrelated problems, like high blood pressure, asthma, ulcers, etc. and worse. Nerve stress can have a serious long term impact on your overall health. All from a simple sprain / strain type injury.

What can be done?

Best care for spinal Sprain / Strain injuries occurs in three phases:

First, for injuries in the first 72 hours, just try to reduce swelling and limit scar formation. This means getting real friendly with your ice pack and try to prevent any re-injuries. That is "take it easy" for a few days.

After that you should continue with the ice packs to reduce the pain and swelling, and begin controlled movement of the injured areas. This is done with gentle stretching exercises and spinal adjustments, to be given only by an expert. It takes a lot of training and skill to know when and how to properly adjust a spinal joint. Don't leave this to someone who has taken a few weekend courses in manipulation. Your chiropractor has, by far, the most training and experience and is best qualified for this job. Adjustments to mobilize the injured joints are absolutely essential to restore the spine as much as possible.

Last, we must do strengthening exercises to fully restore the muscles, tendons and ligaments that support the spine.

Don't make the mistake of thinking you "have to learn to live with it," or that "aches, pains and arthritis, are just a part of getting older."

If you have suffered a sprain / strain type injury to your spine, don't take chances. See your chiropractor for proper advice on how to take care of yourself; and, get proper spinal adjustments to minimize the chances of developing a life long problem.

Ross Williams, D.C.

Dr. Williams can be reached at 826-1000.

THE NEW MISSION NEWS BIER LIST

COMPILED BY KURT BIER

#1 Worst Illegal Dump Sites



Photo by Eugene Kettner

Illegal dumping is not nice. One day an empty lot; the next, a miasma of diapers, mattresses, plastic crates and other generally unpleasant stuff. Here is a list of the top-ten most often used illegal dumping spots in the Mission compiled with the help of John Roumbanis of the Department of Public Works -- nice guy, believes in the clean. Right on.

1. 23rd & Treat, NW corner-Perennial favorite, well fenced recently; soon to become a park; tail end of good run.

2. Caledonia-An alleyway of ill refuse, mostly human waste, excrement and what not.

3. 24th & Potrero, NE corner-Breached fence; mattresses, frames, vomit; could be an up-and-comer.

4. Alabama, between 18th & 19th-Bulky stuff, quarterpanels, clothes, bags of sand; lounging hairy guys.

5. Alabama & 18th, NW corner-Numerous trash bags, years of petty trash accumulation; "No Dumping" sign, cool house next door.

6. Trainor, between 14th & Duboce-The end of the line for old clothes, sleeping bags, and housewares; hot and dusty.

7. Minna, between 14th & 15th-Trail of stuff too heavy to carry far -- that solid concrete block no longer seems so useful

8. Hoff-Different side street, same shit

9. 25th & Treat-Project dumpsters; lots of industrial crap, more sensitivity on the part of friendly business types.

10. 22nd & Treat-Cat urine, litter, and feces; dirty clothes.



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EMERGENCE - Y

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

I have been a lot of ways in my lifetime. I am changing again, recreating my self in my own image. A couple of years ago at age forty-five I thoroughly deconstructed my self and brought everything right down to the frame. I brought down all the walls, all the add-ons, all the superfluous projections, and layers of paint. Some people refer to this moment as a "mid-life crisis." I wonder where that term comes from. The moment is noisy, messy, and kind of scary; I had to wonder if the walls were going to collapse on me and there I'd be crushed under a pile of debris. Still it isn't what I would call a "crisis." It is an emergence-y.

When I started out in life I had curiosity. I would go right up to people and say "hi." I wanted to know that person, look her or even him right in the eye and know. I had no fear, reluctance, judgment. There I was as my innocent self, eager to learn and love. I had no inhibitions about sharing myself either; I wasn't shy of loving, limited in my imagination or fearful of talking to strangers. Slowly over time, the "you-shoulds" crept in, the rights and wrongs were taught, the rules and boundaries were set. Civilized people do not get too excited, girls do not play baseball and -- certainly -- girls do not love each other. It did not matter what; there was always a parameter, delineator, divisor; quantifier. Cripes; there is a book called *Women Who Love Too Much!*

Even as a lesbian this happens. Here

I am outside what is known as acceptable behavior. I looked around me one day and realized that I was duplicating the rest of society except that my partner is a woman, not a man. I wanted a house; I bought major appliances; and, I was in a seriously monogamous relationship, "married" is what I would say. On some level I had even hought into the way society defines lesbians, that I am a lesbian based on my sexuality, my partner's gender, and I wasn't liking men very much.

When I came out as a lesbian, I was saying each and every human has the right to make choices, he who we are, all of who we are, without shame or apology. I was wanting to excitedly live my life with courage. I was expanding to fully express my love for the heart, soul and spirit of women which inspire me from my core. I was wanting to boldly challenge all the rules separating us from each other. I was praying to deeply express my compassion for the peoples of the world.

Somewhere, somehow along the way I had lost my ability to define my self, I had lost my willingness to imagine all realities, I had lost my curiosity. There I was married, doing what everybody else was doing with only inconsequential differences. I had to ask my self: When I came out as a lesbian is that what I meant to do; to find a partner to own me, who would only love me and nobody else; did I want to hate and judge and play it safe? I had bought into playing it safe but I had no breathing room. In fact, I had no room at all. I had taken all my capacity for loving and bricked it into one tiny room. Then the air started to get used up. If I stayed in that small bricked-in room....It would be the end of me. In that moment I decided it



was time to get big or die.

So I have torn down all the walls. I am stepping out into the world. I reclaim my capacity for loving, I talk to strangers on the bus, the street; wherever I walk, however I am, whoever they are -- doesn't matter. I take a breath into my lungs and then another, making room for me to breathe fully. I stretch my atrophied im-

agination to create more and more possibilities. I am opening my heart to embrace each and every one of the humans on this planet. I am liberating my curiosity. I am emerging into the world to do one simple thing. I want to take a full breath and simply speak from my heart: Hello, I want to know who you are and love you.



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# MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

## AUGUST 4

**Back on the Farm** - The Farm was the Mission District's punk and orgo-alternative scene's base of operations in the mid-eighties, underground heaven for those on the cusp. Mike Kavanagh explores this in, *Farmcore - The Punk Rock Years*; DOA, Social Distortion, RKL, MDC accompany; through Sat.. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**Poetry to Live By** - Chrystos, winner of 1994 Audre Lorde Poetry Competition, reads from her *Fugitive Colors*, "poems...of desire, politics, and survival." 7:30PM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation-none shunned, 821-4675.

**Notes From the Hershey Highway** - Solo performance work by dykes and FTM's, exploring faggot identity. Dylan Star Berkely, Cherie Bombardier, Marcy Coburn, and more. Reservations recommended. 8PM, BUILD, 483 Guerrero St., \$5 suggested, 863-3041.

**He's on Fire!** - The Burning Man has arrived, odd, strange, weird, and wholly other. General nuttiness, lectures and performances; through Sat.. Lectures 7PM, Show 8PM, S.O.M.A.R., 934 Brannan, \$10 donation, 985-7471.

## AUGUST 5

**Organ Concert** by John Fenstermaker - Featuring works by Fletcher, Gauthier, Lemare, and Buck. 5PM, Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St., Free, 861-1436.

## AUGUST 6

**Open Michele Night** - Commemorate the 50th anniversary of the tragedy of Hiroshima, poetry and song. 7PM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation, 821-4675.

**Columbia Sings** - Colombian music performed by guitarist Claudia Gomez. Pena del Sur 2870 22nd St. 10 PM, \$5, 550-1101

## AUGUST 7

**Capital Concerns** - Doug Dowd's class on economic processes, problems and possibilities continues into its second month. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, Free, 282-9246.

**Afterfall** - Teachers' Dance Performance. 8PM, Footwork Studio, 3221 22nd, \$10, 824-5044.

**Social Service Chief in the 'Hood** - Brian Cahill, General Manager of the Department of Social Services meets with the Mayor's Mission Taskforce Committee on Health, Social Services and Homelessness 7PM 820 Valencia, free.

## AUGUST 8

**Merchants Meet** - The 24th Street Merchants meet the first Tuesday of each month to discuss business stuff, wheel and deal with them. 8:30AM, El Mexicano Restaurant, Free.

**16th Street and Mission Mini-Taskforce on Public Safety** - Monthly anti-crime meeting St John's Church 1661 15th St. 10 AM

## AUGUST 9

**SMUT-O-RAMA** - Erotic reading circle, come read your trashy stuff or somebody else's. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia 8 PM, free, 974-8980

## AUGUST 10

**16th Street Neighborhood Association** - Planning session for October celebration. Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club 450 Guerrero, 8:30 AM.

**Nappy by Nature** - African American Woman explore sexuality, spirituality, and the politics of hair through poetry, politics and performance; featuring Aliona Gibson and Nancy Elizabeth Johnson. 7:30PM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation, 821-4675.

## AUGUST 11

**Stop, Drop, and Roll** - More Burning Man antics. Groups and individuals with overly clever names perform. Through Sat. with lectures both days. Lectures 7PM, Show 8PM, S.O.M.A.R., 934 Brannan, \$10 donation, 985-7471.

**Fashion Show** - Presented by Shoot the Women First in conjunction with the zine *Fat Girl*, a compilation of low budget shorts, Interactive Performance, and found footage; to contribute contact Lucy at ATA, 824-3890. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

## AUGUST 12

**Peruvian Music Night** - Live Peruvian music by various artists. Pena del Sur 2870-A 22nd St., 10 PM, \$5, 550-1101

**In the Hood** - Mission District film and video makers show and present work about their lives in the Mission-Viva 16, *Bad Jews in the Kitchen*, and more. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**Romper Room Memoirs** - Join local young people as they share their stories, poems, and songs. Children of all ages welcome. 10:00AM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation, 821-4675.

**Dykestrippers** - An action-packed anthology of the wild imaginations of lesbian cartoonists. Diane DiMassa, Kris Kovick and Erica Lopez discuss their work and inspirations. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, Free, 282-9246.

## AUGUST 13

**Flea Market** - The Mission YMCA is having a community Flea Market, hidden treasures at bargain prices. 10AM, YMCA, 4080 Mission, \$10 table rental, 586-6900.

**The Growing Stage** - Theater events for children, featuring Owen the Magician and comical story teller Walker Brents. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 11Am & 1PM, \$4-6, 826-5750

## AUGUST 14

**"Spoken Word"** - Performance by Linda Ann Xyz of Dick and Jane, and Alienation. 8:30PM, The Chameleon, 821-1891.

**You Will Attend** - Reception for opening of installation, "Command Performance," by Reginald Lamar. The installation will be the staging of Reginald's "Sex Club Opera." 7PM, Collision, 417 14th, 431-4074.

**Right Wingers are Lame** - Chip Berlet will discuss right-wing movements, ranging from the Christian Coalition to armed militias, a public forum. 7PM, Women's Building, 3542 18th, \$5-10, (510)601-0182.

## AUGUST 15

**Book Talk** - Richard Stookey, author of *Kinsella's Man*, speaks. 7:00PM, Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond, Free, 586-3733.

**A Mid-Summer's Metaphysical Sex Comedy** - "Crossing Over" hot stuff and head stuff from playwright Lynn Kaufman. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St. 8:30 Pm. \$8-12, 826-5750.

## AUGUST 16

**Leshlan & Gay Open Reading** - Authors of both poetry and prose are invited to share their work in the Bay Area's only reading for lesbian and gay writers. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, Free, 282-9246.

**Interactive Murder Mystery Program** for Middle Schoolers - Mission Branch Library 3353 24th, 4PM, free, 695-5090.




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## AUGUST 17

**Fenigmas** - The Femme Mystique w/ Victoria Baker, Kelly Conway, Kay Elewski, et al; voices of femmes, former femmes, and femme fatales. 8PM, Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation, 821-4675.

**Dog Days Nights** - Intersection for the arts presents three entertaining evenings of contemporary music, dance, and theatre featuring Erling Wold, Joe Goode, and Jayne Wenger, through 19th. 8PM, Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, \$15-150 sliding scale, \$35 for 3 night pass, 626-2787.

## AUGUST 18

**Exile** - Romeo Osorio speaks on his work, El Salvador, and anti-187 sentiment. Screening of *Exile*, immigrant mother returned to El Salvador. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**Southern Exposure Exhibition** - Students from La Casa de los Jovenes will showcase work from drumming, Aztec dancing, theater and Capoeira. 7PM, Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama, Free, 863-2141.

## AUGUST 19

**PunkGirlAction** - Punky, in-your-face dyke action. Work by Lucy Thane, Georgina Corzine, Jill Rieter. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**National Rock Climbing Championships** - Held at the Mission's new indoor mountain range, Mission Cliffs at 19th and Harrison Street, call 550-0515 for details. Runs through the 20th

**Mission Speaks** - "Mission Voices" participants will present performances and works of art. Noon, Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama, Free, 863-2141.

**Performance Marathon** - Theater Artaud's annual 12 hour benefit, hailed as the best place to see the most exciting musical, theatrical, dance, comedic, visual and performance talent of S.F. Noon, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, \$5-50 sliding scale, 621-7797.

## AUGUST 21

**Codependent Course** - An eight week course covering codependency and its manifestations, bring a friend. 6:30PM, Everett Middle School, 450 Church, Free, 585-5212.

## AUGUST 22

**Jordan's Rules** - Join political analysts and consultants to discuss how to make children's issues a central concern in the up-coming Mayor's race. Noon, Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth, 2601 Mission, Ste. 804, Free, 641-4362.

**Coupling Well** - A six week course in developing and honing your personal relationships. 6:30PM, Everett Middle School, 450 Church, Free, 585-5150.

**Sex Toy Tricks** - Demo on dildo and other sex toy antics. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia St., 8PM, \$20 pre-registration, 974-8980

## AUGUST 23

**Magic show for all ages** - Sleight of hand by Magic Dan Sneider. Mission Branch Library 3350 Mission St., 4:30 PM, free, 695-5090

## AUGUST 24

**What It Iz** - Bob Davis, author of *Iz A Novel*, speaks and the like. 7PM, Glen Park Books, 2788 Diamond, Free, 586-3733.

**RJA** - Red Jordan Arobateau reads from her debut novel, *Lucy and Mickey*. "...a world somewhere between Feinberg's *Stone Bitch Blues* and Dante's *Inferno*. 7:30PM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10, 821-4675.

**Afro Solo** - The Second Annual African American Solo Performance Festival will run through August 27th and feature 11 local artists and a special performance by Ruby Dee on the 26th, New Performance Gallery 3153 17th St., tickets, except for the Ruby Dee performance are \$10, call 346-9344 for details.

## AUGUST 25

**Gore, Gore, Gore** - An evening of low budget special FX shorts by visiting Olympia cult figure Sadie Shaw. Horrific entertainment with audience participation. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**Ahimsa, Peace** - Tibetan bells, taiko drumming, Indian strings and Japanese martial artists join the California Contemporary Dancers for the world premier of Ahimsa, through 27. 8PM, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, \$12, 621-7797.

## AUGUST 26

**PMS** - Post Modern Sisters present program of short films by women, bringing together issues of body landscape, memory, identity, space, etc. 8:30PM, ATA, 992 Valencia, \$5, 824-0562.

**Ginu Kamani** - Critically acclaimed Bay Area author Ginu Kamani reads from her debut collection of provocative short stories, *Jungle Girl*. 7:30PM, Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, Free, 282-9246.

**Hey, Don't Block Cuba** - Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Women's Rights Day with Radical Women. Yolanda Alaniz, Chicana socialist speaks. 8PM, Radical Women, 523-A Valencia, \$8 for buffet, \$3-5 donation, 864-1278.

## AUGUST 27

**The Life Of Helen Keller** - A one woman interactive show for children. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 11Am & 1Pm, \$4-6, 826-5750

## AUGUST 29

**Hear the Verbage** - Poetry reading by Neeli Cherkovski and Jack & Adele Foley. 7PM, 3300 Club, 3300 Mission, Free, 333-3494.

## AUGUST 30

**Revolutionary Laughter** - Writer Laura Post and comedian Lisa Geduling explore the wacky, wild and wonderful world of women's comedy. 7:30PM, Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia, \$3-10 donation, 821-4675.

**Top Cat Funky Jazz Band and Universe X** - Live jazz at Blondies Bar 540 Valencia St., 9:30 PM, \$3

## AUGUST 31

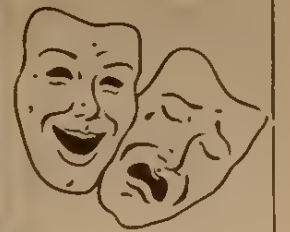
**Unknown Giants** - Live Jazz at Blondies Bar 540 Valencia 9:30 PM, \$3

## ONGOING

**Cheap Art** - Precita Eyes offers low-cost art classes five days a week. Painting, drawing, youth arts. Times vary, Precita Eyes, 348 Precita Ave., \$5/class, \$30 for 10 classes, 285-2287.



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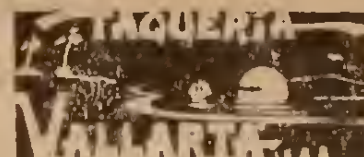


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# FRANK'S PLACE

by Frank Stauff a.k.a Deadbeat

My Brand new lover kisses me goodnight; she leaves me here alone with 15 years in this apartment. Fifteen years of rent control, no maintenance, inertia and 15 roommates. If I'd made a plaster cast of every roommate's face, and of the faces of the friends and lovers that this place has known, and hung those plaster casts along the walls, then every room would be a gallery of faces -- eyes closed, ghost-white, pushing out from pale blank walls.

Good thing I didn't make those casts: these empty rooms spook me enough, my footsteps hollow on the hardwood floors. These last two weeks I've had the whole place to myself. By day, I've been fixing it up for roommates #16 and #17, another hapless couple I have lured into my haunted palace. Lucky thing I've had these weeks to exorcise some cobwebs, sweep some ectoplasmic larvae from the corners of the ceiling. Fifteen years of psychic residue and nicotine to scrub out of the empty hall...ok, maybe tomorrow...

My last night alone: here comes the Hush. You know the Hush? Dusk deepens into indigo, then black; pale moonlight on the walls. A long thin strand of cobweb swaying slowly from the ceiling tickles piles of astral marijuana on the phantom yellow table, Greg and I in 1980 watching Ronald Reagan get elected, "better roll another spliff, Rasta." Greg a lawyer in New York now; haven't heard from him in years, or Anne. For years poor Greg was forced by loneliness to love Anne's fickle older sister -- Greg was older too -- they all were; everyone was older. We were everybody's babies, Anne and I.

My vicious blood smeared on her face, red spatter on the bright white walls the beautiful hardwood floor the wine glass shattered in the toilet, childish, we were everybody's children, we could still be

heroes for one day I put on Anne's red cha-cha dress she wore my old brown suit tripping down Haight St. high on psychedelic pheromones and naturally secreted opiates until in 1983 I loaned our boarder money for computer school: he got a job at 40K and Anne into the bargain. Years later I find a note in my mailbox: "Julian left me for another woman...I'm with Luiz now, a Native American." Huh? I was with K. then, an English-Irish-German-American, and I was living with Roger L., an Asian-American, and Ignatz, a feline-American who ran away I couldn't bear to castrate him...I know, I know, but save the lectures. Hush now: 1981 is coming up the stairs with Silverstone.

An 18-yr-old virgin when she 1st moved in w/ me & Anne, within a month L.'s shooting upstairs from Mabuhay screwing all the Rockabilly boys and here come silverbillies up the stairs, the whole band in her bright little bedroom down the hall I meet Chris Isaac looking puzzled by the bathroom door, a fat-faced kid, "nice place you got."

Blood draining from her face after Steve died, after a binge and purge, Anne took the pills and roses and the next plane out -- '82 my summer of rum, our summer apart --

Me drunk and high in one room, Julian my then-innocent new roomie smoking hash in another, Roger #1 the underground cartoonist drinking warm six-packs of Rainier Ale on the living room couch -- eyes wide of a sudden like he'd seen a ghost, blood in his mouth during a seizure I had to pry his jaws apart to keep his teeth from severing his tongue-tip.

David Merrill, Bob Crown, William Hounshell, Roger Brand, Frankie Glitter Doll -- Steve LeClair, my best friend from jr. high to age 21 -- all people who died. Mike Reject -- Richard L. and Susan T. and J.A.W. -- all the people who should have.



Bill E. Badd on my back porch, grinning at the morning glories -- dead now, severed at their stems by evil landlord "cleaning up" the yard. "We could get high on these," says Bill, eyeing the purple blooms, the little white seeds, and when I close my eyes sometimes I can still see his jail tattoos.

Now I'm a prisoner of love again. A distant groaning of the ghosts of love and lust. C.T. with her heavy shock of blonde, only a year in this very very fine apartment -- two cats in the yard, and a parade of couch-crashers. We'd smoke fat joints on the deck and sprinkle the cats with catnip, watch them chase each other through the thigh-high weeds. Me crying like a retard hahy in the dark when life got hard again, her gone, my head shaved, a Kotex taped to my arm -- a bloody disgrace.

Welcome to the offices of Deadbeat Magazine 1985-1989, R.I.P.

And K., years later, crying at the truth I only made it worse I told her Hey I'm sorry please don't cry but fifteen years and fifteen roommates, maybe fifteen more, like, ghosts and lovers, tangled ropes of cobweb, conga drums and sex moans and the morning glories weeping in the dark because this fine and private place is such a fucking mess.

I watched the walls buckle during the earthquake. Little white puffs of dust hung in the air where cracks split open plaster, sheetrock, and the hardwood floor became my drunken boat at last. A reeling, pitching feeling almost of relief, exhilaration: THIS IS IT!

It wasn't. Six years gone but I'm still not. I've had to clean some of my messes up to stay here. Next week these rooms

are to be patched and painted. Brand new stove, refrigerator --toilet, too -- but the rooms are still haunted by night, by moonlight through the long blue curtains, cold stars framed by small warped panes of glass in the double French doors, in the big bedroom where I lived with Anne, C.T., and K., the one I hurt.

Nothing at all left in the dark little living room so I try not to go in there; I try to stay in my clean well-lighted little bedroom down the hall until the kitchen or the bathroom call me out.

Last night alone here very late I walked toward the kitchen for a beer but didn't make it -- big blonde bedroom sucked me in & swallowed me like a pro. Made me sit down where the bed was once, then disappeared into the twilight breathing, distant laughter, airy fingers tickling my spine.

I see Steve sitting in the green steel chair, Jesus he still looks 21 years old framed in the grey dawn doorway, Anne behind him cutting off his wet black curls to make him look New Wave. He turns his head and looks right at me, twin moons in his glasses and the cat runs to the doorway, sees me and stops cold, his tail puffed in the empty room as if he'd seen it too.

His warm and solid body, little mammal brings me back.

Our dust hangs in the air a moment, puff! it settles to the floor. Pale plaster faces sink back into walls and for a while I don't even hear K. crying anymore.

His purring body gives me back my hands, for now -- a little like my Brand new lover, here today, made me forget the other faces that this place has known, but left before the mourning.

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